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Hundreds of Golan residents protest outside the Defense Ministry offices in Tel Aviv yesterday. Story, Page 3. (Reuters)

## Editor's fate in the hands of Arafat

BILL HUTMAN

THE fate of imprisoned *Al-Quds* editor Maher Alami is in the hands of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Preventive Security chief Jibril Rajoub said yesterday.

Alami, arrested Monday apparently for not running a Christmas story praising Arafat on the front page, is being held at Rajoub's headquarters in Jericho, according to Palestinian sources. "I will not comment [on the arrest]," Rajoub said. "You have to talk to the chairman. He will decide."

Palestinian sources said that Rajoub has repeatedly said that Arafat gave the orders for Alami's arrest, and "only Arafat can order his release."

Arafat's spokesman could not be reached for comment yesterday.

*Al-Quds* owner Marwan Abu Zafar said that he had tried, but failed to reach Arafat about Alami's arrest.

Jerusalem police, meanwhile, are still "looking into" the arrest of Alami, a Jerusalem resident, and have yet to take any concrete action to obtain his release, a spokeswoman said.

The Paris-based Reporters Without Frontiers sent a fax to Arafat demanding Alami's release. "At the time when the Palestinians are called upon to democratically elect their leaders, it is worrisome to note that the PA approves the harassment of journalists," the group's secretary-general, Robert Menard, wrote.

In Ramallah, the Palestinian Journalists Forum issued a statement expressing "its concern following this arrest, which it fears is aimed at punishing a fellow journalist for carrying out his duties."

Amjad Alami, the editor's son, was allowed by Preventive Security to meet with his father, and said that "he appears to be being treated well."

He said that contrary to earlier reports his father was not kidnapped by Preventive Security agents, but went to Jericho after being ordered to go there.

But other sources say Alami (Continued on Page 2)

## Likud gets Levy defector, ex-GSS man

SARAH HONIG

THE Likud scored a double coup yesterday - former GSS deputy chief Gideon Ezra and Kiryat Shmona Mayor Prosper Azran are both running in its Knesset primaries.

Ezra's decision is seen as a special feather in the Likud cap, as he serves as special consultant on terrorism to Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal. Since the

Rabin assassination, Ezra has been frequently mentioned as a possible successor to the present GSS head.

Ezra handed in the candidacy forms after the Tuesday evening deadline, with the special permission of Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.

Azran is reported to have already submitted his candidacy forms to Likud headquarters. His move marks another major defection from the camp of MK David Levy.

"I don't much care about my personal career, and I care only in so far as it is the instrument with which I can contribute to the national camp," Ezra told Israel Radio. "In the last elections one out of every two citizens voted for the national camp, but it wasn't enough. The national

(Continued on Page 22)

## Barak: We expect long negotiations

First round of talks conclude today

HILLEL KUTTLER and agencies  
QUEENSTOWN, Maryland

ISRAEL and Syria continued their peace negotiations here yesterday, but all meetings between the two sides took place only in the presence of US representatives, Israeli officials said.

The talks at the Wye River Conference Center began on Wednesday and are to conclude today, after which the Israeli and Syrian teams will return home for consultations. The talks will resume after the New Year's holiday.

"We're satisfied with the atmosphere, the openness, and the approach," one Israeli official said, but he would reveal nothing about the substance of the talks, citing the parties' commitment to maintaining confidentiality.

At various points, the meetings included Syrian Ambassador to the US Walid Muallem, Michael Wahbi, director of the Foreign Minister's Office, Ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich, and Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir. Foreign Ministry legal adviser Joel Singer and his Syrian counterpart, Riad Daoudi held separate discussions.

In Damascus, Foreign Minister Farouk Shara, who met with seven Arab foreign ministers to discuss the peace process, said he is optimistic about the renewed negotiations.

But the official *Al-Thawra* newspaper, which has generally been upbeat about the prospects for peace, linked the success of the talks to "the extent of Israel's compliance with Syria's legitimate demands and its readiness to commit itself to a full

withdrawal from the Golan Heights." It called on Israel not to seek "security and geographical privileges that might infringe upon Syria's sovereignty and dignity."

Foreign Minister Ehud Barak was a little more guarded than Shara. "The atmosphere is really good and the dialogue is positive and I think that the next few days will lead to some kind of general sifting of the positions of both sides," he told Israel Radio.

But, he added, "I think that we can expect long negotiations that will include stages that will not be simple and even difficult. I don't think this is something that will be wound up in a few weeks."

"For us, the main question is to what extent the Syrians are ready or open to appropriate security arrangements. In the end, our formula is the depth of the peace and security arrangements."

Minister Yossi Beilin said Israeli negotiators had a feeling their Syrian counterparts had a "broader mandate" than in previous talks.

"What it's possible to speak of now is a positive atmosphere, a feeling that there is a mandate there for serious negotiations," he told Israel Radio.

"Is all this leading to real breakthrough in the talks? It's impossible to know as yet."

Asked if the talks would end today with a joint declaration, Beilin said: "There is as yet no conclusion that there will be a summation, but that's also not impossible."

Beilin did not rule out a possibility the US, as the broker in the talks, would propose a compromise on where to mark the border. "Since we said that from a procedural standpoint we have no preconditions, I wouldn't rule out such an option beforehand. Obviously that doesn't obligate us to anything," he said.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials categorically denied that Israel has requested a financial package from the US to pay for security systems on the Golan and to compensate residents who could be uprooted by the terms of a peace treaty.

"There's no agreement, so how could we have approached the Americans," one official said. "It could be that there will be no deal, and so no settlements would have to be evacuated, so why would we make that approach?"

The official conceded that planning for such a package might be under way in Jerusalem. But, he said that the entire notion of a \$12 billion package - as reported on Wednesday night by Channel 1 - might be a trial balloon to elicit Washington's response.

In a related development, France called for talks between Israel and Lebanon.

Welcoming Israel's talks with Syria, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Paris hoped they would be successful. "France is prepared to back the parties in order to reach an agreement," he told a routine news briefing.

"We wish that negotiations may be staged between Lebanon and Israel with a view to safeguarding Lebanon's integrity and sovereignty," he added.

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Haifa	4:15	5:22
Beer-Sheva	4:24	5:22
Eilat	4:27	5:28



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# Ofakim workers clash with police

VIOLENT clashes between police and fired workers of the closed Ouman Knitting Mills marked yesterday's general strike in Ofakim.

In the morning, the workers began a march from the plant to the Town Hall, where a demonstration of support for them was held. When they arrived, municipal workers left their jobs in sympathy. Shortly afterwards, school pupils - the schools were closed at 10 - joined them, as did members of area kibbutzim and moshavim, residents of nearby Netivot and workers from other area plants.

Yitzhak Gozlan, head of the Ouman workers' committee, then called on town merchants to close their shops and join the demonstration. Many did.

Yossi Marciano, head of the local labor council, charged that Israeli governments have been ignoring Ofakim's problem's for a long time. "Now," he added, "we're in water up to our neck. They're closing factories and bringing in guards to keep workers out."

All the workers want, he added, is to keep working, even if the pay is low.

Mayor Micah Herman noted

Jerusalem Post Staff and Tim

that "there has been no investment in the town for 15 years," and that over the last few years "we have absorbed 6,000 immigrants and 2,000 young people without one additional job having been created."

He also scorned Finance Minister Avraham Shohat's claiming credit for getting ECI Telecom to open a plant in Ofakim within the next five months. "We've been chasing ECI for 18 months," he said. "We convinced them to come here. Half of my time is

spent trying to convince entrepreneurs to create jobs in Ofakim."

The demonstrators then marched to the entrance to the town, where they encountered police roadblocks. In the clashes that ensued, six workers were arrested.

Meanwhile, the committee of directors-general appointed by Prime Minister Shimon Peres to deal with the Ofakim issue will present its proposals to the cabinet on Sunday.

They include an additional 330 government-funded positions to be provided, mainly in agriculture; funding professional re-

training courses for approximately 200 people and education completion courses for 150; Ofakim will be included in the aid program for specific areas; government funding will be provided to transportation workers from Ofakim to Beersheba, Kiryat Gat, Sderot and the entire region; the Investment Center will shorten administrative procedures for obtaining permits for establishing factories in Ofakim; and the municipal budget will immediately receive an additional NIS 1.5 million.

Herman rejected the proposals out of hand.

## Amal, Hizbullah unswayed by Syrian peace track

DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

FIGHTING continued in south Lebanon yesterday, as both Amal and Hizbullah vowed to step up attacks against the IDF and South Lebanese Army, regardless of the peace talks between Israel and Syria.

SLA positions in the western sector came under fire from mortars, anti-tank missiles, and heavy machine guns. There were no casualties.

A senior Amal official was quoted Beirut *Ad Dihar* daily as saying that anyone who regards the movement as "moderate in terms of dealing with Israel is talking nonsense. Just wait and see the next phase in Amal's

struggle against the occupation." Hizbullah deputy leader Sheikh Naim Kasseb said the organization would only reconsider its resistance activities when a peace accord is reached between Lebanon, Syria, and Israel.

Kasseb was quoted in the London-based *Asarq al-Awsat* as saying Syria and Hizbullah are in agreement on the issue. He rejected any suggestions that Syria might try to curb Hizbullah because it could hurt peace prospects.

In Metulla, meanwhile, a combined Christmas and New Year's party was held at the local community center for 200 youngsters from the security zone.

## Press attacked at Amir wedding

RAINE MARCUS

VARDIT Amir, the sister of assassin Yigal Amir, was married last night in Bnei Brak. Hundreds turned out for the wedding, but only the 650 invitees were allowed into the banquet hall.

An IDF Radio reporter was beaten up by a mob as he tried to enter the hall, and a press photographer had his camera smashed by a guard employed by the security company the family hired for the wedding.

There were no police in the

area, as senior officers said this would only have caused provocations.

Judging from the crowd outside the hall, Eitan Haber's demand earlier this week for thousands to attend was not answered. However, hundreds of haredim did gather outside the hall, with one man explaining his presence by saying he thought it was a mitzva to attend the Amir wedding, and that the family was being unfairly hounded.

## Peres: Advanced air-to-air missile added to IDF arsenal

ISRAEL this year added an air-to-air missile considered the most advanced in the Western world to its arsenal, Prime Minister Shimon Peres revealed yesterday.

Speaking at graduation ceremonies for air force pilots at the Air Force Museum in Hatzorim, Peres said: "We rely on our ability to defend the peace as we have until now guarded our nation's security."

He said that the air force, like the entire IDF, had been bolstered considerably this year with fighter planes, helicopters, and sophisticated guidance systems.

### ARRIVALS

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Chef Joel Robuchon of Robuchon's Restaurant in Paris gets a first-hand look at Israeli produce in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda market yesterday in preparation for the special charity dinner he and eleven other leading world chefs will prepare for 500 selected guests on March 18 in Jerusalem, as part of the Jerusalem 3000 celebrations.

(Isaac Harari)

## Indictment filed against Sheerit

EVELYN GORDON

THE indictment against MK Meir Sheerit (Likud) was filed yesterday in Jerusalem District Court, after the Knesset removed his immunity - with his consent - earlier this week.

Sheerit is being charged with aggravated fraud, fraud and breach of trust for allegedly billing the Jewish Agency for some \$19,800 worth of personal expenses during his tenure as the

agency's treasurer from 1988-92.

According to the indictment, Sheerit used his agency Express card to buy \$6,131 worth of private purchases during this period. He never reported these as private expenses, the indictment continued, knowing that in the absence of such a report, the agency would treat

them as business expenses.

In addition, Sheerit allegedly took his wife and two children to the US on vacation in August 1991, and billed the agency for some \$13,700 worth of expenses by fraudulently presenting the trip as a business trip.

The indictment noted that Sheerit took several steps to make the agency think the trip was business-related.

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### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Haifa woman dies in fire

Lily Segal, 90, of Haifa, died early yesterday morning in a fire in her home. Firemen were summoned by neighbors, who saw smoke pouring from her windows at about 5:30 a.m. After cutting through a barred window to the smoke-filled flat, they discovered her body on the floor. Investigators said the fire started on a sofa, apparently as the result of a short circuit.

Item

#### Asael named IDF's chief education officer

Col. Avraham Asael, 45, has been named the IDF's chief education officer and will be promoted to brigadier-general, the IDF Spokesman announced yesterday. He replaces Brig-Gen. Shalom Ben-Moshe. Asael joined the IDF in 1969 and served as a navigator in F-4 Phantoms. During the Yom Kippur War, he was shot down and captured by the Syrians.

Jerusalem Post Staff

#### Gang of counterfeiters arrested

A gang of counterfeiters that produced millions of shekels in fake NIS 200 bills was arrested yesterday at their homes in the Triangle area. Earlier this month, the Police Serious Crimes Division uncovered a counterfeiting gang based in Ashdod.

Bill Hutman

### Winning numbers & cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the jack of spades, 10 of hearts, nine of diamonds and eight of clubs.

In last night's Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 470382 won NIS 1,000,000.

The holder of ticket number 470502 won a car.

Tickets numbered 463588, 281237, 598424, 628217, 083909, 181290, 723683 and 347941 won NIS 5,000. Those tickets ending in 70334, 10507, 52184, 20389, 49539, 90991, 17213, 44618, 92836, 91520, 01814, 49191, 30947, 40824, 53412 33830, 85971, 89509 and 01328 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 508, 070, 642, 570, and 490 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 95, 66, 98, 55 and 43 won NIS 24. Tickets ending in 1 and 5 won NIS 8.

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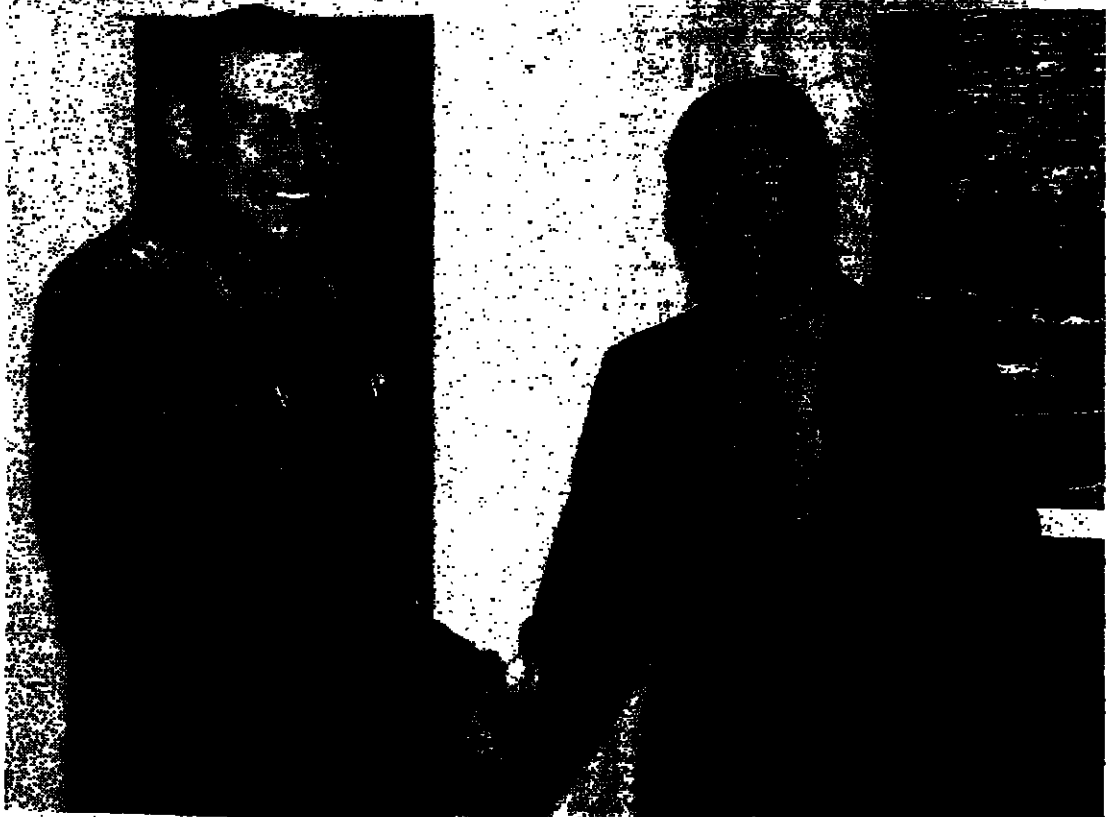
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Defense Minister Shimon Peres meets with Kazakhstani's defense minister, Gen. Kazimov, at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv yesterday. (Israel Sun)

## Mordechai joins protest against Golan withdrawal

DAVID RUDGE

FORMER OC Northern Command Maj. Gen. (res.) Yitzhak Mordechai made his first foray into the political arena yesterday by attending a demonstration by Golan Heights residents opposite the Defense Ministry's offices in Tel Aviv.

Mordechai, who recently joined the Likud, received a rapturous reception from the more than 300 demonstrators campaigning to keep the Golan under Israeli rule.

To loud and prolonged applause, Mordechai said he had come to the demonstration, which was licensed by police, to show support and solidarity for the Golan residents.

He underlined the strategic importance of the Golan, maintaining that it was still possible to reach an honorable peace with Syria that would "maintain our security and our citizens on the Golan."

Mordechai said he believed that "common sense" would prevail and that nobody would take measures that might endanger the security of the State or uproot communities.

He spoke with demonstrators including invalid army veteran Eliyahu Kislev, who charged that giving up land which had been settled was breaking the first

principle of Zionism.

Yossi Ben-Aharon, former director-general of the Prime Minister's Office and former head of Israel's delegation to the peace talks with Syria, also attended the demonstration and addressed the protesters, saying that Syria had not yet proved itself to be a true partner for peace.

The demonstration yesterday was the first organized by the Golan Residents Committee (GRC) since the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

On the Golan itself, however, new posters have sprouted in support of territorial concessions in return for a full and secure peace with Syria.

## B'tselem: IDF ignores torture of Palestinians by other inmates

JON IMMANUEL

B'TSELEM, the human rights group, condemned the IDF yesterday for ignoring brutal and fatal acts of torture in Kefar Zion prison camp, perpetrated by prisoners acting as Palestinian security agents against other prisoners they considered collaborators.

The statement issued by B'tselem Director Yitzhar Be'er said that two men died as a result of the torture between August and October. They were Abdel-Karim Kanaze, 26, who died September 15, and Mohammed Abu-Shakra, 23, who died October 7.

"They undressed me completely, lay me on a bed full of nails, sometimes with my chest on the nails, and at other times with my back lying on the nails, and then they would sit on me. They would heat plastic straws we used

when eating until they melted, then drip the molten plastic on my penis," said one torture victim identified as AB.

Another victim identified as DH said, "They inserted wire into my penis. They beat me all the time. They used to douse the wounds of internees with salt and pepper after they cut them with a razor blade."

According to the victims, all those involved in the interrogations were released under the Oslo 2 agreement, and some were now security officials, B'tselem reported.

The victims said that the head of the group, identified as Munjad Kaza, told them he belonged to the Palestinian Preventive Security

Service headed by Col. Jibril Rajoub.

An official in Rajoub's office denied any involvement in the interrogations.

The IDF Spokesman said it was aware of increasing violence in September and October "during internal interrogations by certain prisoners against those suspected of collaboration with the Israeli security authorities."

As a result, changes in security procedures were instituted, including unscheduled visits by guards, banning of visits between different parts of the prison and body searches for weapons.

In a letter to Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Beer wrote, "If the authorities did not intervene to prevent torture... this constituted a grave dereliction of duty."

## 20-minute trip to school now two hours via bypass road

HERB KEINON

RESIDENTS of the Binyamin Regional Council held their children back from school yesterday to demonstrate that a trip to school, which used to take 20 minutes, now - as a result of the transfer of Ramallah to the Palestinian Authority - takes up to two hours.

"This is not a political struggle," said Binyamin Regional Council head Pinhas Wallerstein. "What we want to do is look for ways to ensure normal life in the region."

Adi Mintz, an activist in the settlement of Dolev northwest of Ramallah, said that dozens of children from Dolev and Talmon A and B must travel what amounts to nearly a full circle to get to schools in Beit El and Ofra. There are nearly 2,000 people in these three settlements.

Rather than drive through Ramallah, as they have been doing for years, the buses now go west to Kiryat Sefer, then travel on the Ben Shimon-Givat Ze'ev road, and then head northeast through Dir Nebela, a-Jeeb and onto the new bypass road to Beit El. The IDF will not allow the buses to travel through Ramallah.

Mintz said that a bypass road to Dolev and Talmon is in the works, but has not yet begun. "In order for kids to get to school at eight, they have to leave the house at six. This is ridiculous."

Heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza met yesterday in Psagot to discuss the situation, as well as to discuss a blackout in Beit El on Wednesday night that lasted nearly five hours.

## IDF removes roadblocks from Jericho road

Settlers fear for security

HERB KEINON

JORDAN Valley settlement leaders were up in arms yesterday over the IDF removal of roadblocks both north and south of Jericho.

The roadblocks on both sides of the main artery through Jericho, which were removed in accordance with the Oslo Accords, had been in place since the Palestinian Authority moved into Jericho in 1994.

Tami Atiya, a spokeswoman for the Jordan Valley Settlements' Committee, said that the residents' concerns have to do not only with security but also with politics.

"There is now nothing to mark a border," Atiya said. "There is

no roadblock or even a sign. We are concerned that the PA will use this to claim more land in the area."

Atiya said that both the IDF and the area settlements will soon be increasing patrols as a result of the removal of the blockades. Other blockades on roads leading from Jericho to Jerusalem have been removed over the last few weeks.

According to David Elhayani, head of the settlements' committee, a car with armed Palestinian police drove from Jericho to Ofra yesterday - unescorted by an IDF patrol and in violation of the Oslo accords - as soon as the roadblocks were removed.

## Palestinians: Israeli water too expensive

A PALESTINIAN official complained yesterday about the price Israel charges for water supplied to the self-rule areas in the West Bank and Gaza.

"The prices charged by Mekorot are very hard on us," said Mohammed Nashashibi, the Palestinian Authority's Minister of Finance and Agriculture.

"We have an agreement on water but there are difficulties in carrying it out," Agriculture Minister Ya'acov Tzur told reporters after meeting Nashashibi. "There are problems with the price, the payments."

Tzur agreed to present the Palestinian demands to Mekorot.

Nashashibi complained that Palestinians pay more for their water than Jewish settlers in the territories.

According to Mekorot, settlers pay a subsidized rate of NIS 1.04 per cubic meter of water, the same paid by residents of any Israeli city.

The Palestinians pay NIS 1.55, or "full real cost," Amos Epstein, Mekorot general manager, told Reuters.

While the price is still under negotiation, he said it was expensive to bring water to higher altitude cities like Ramallah and Hebron, and suggested Israel was reluctant to subsidize the Palestinians' water.

"If they want subsidized water, let them ask the United States or the United Nations," he said.

Mekorot supplies settlers in the West Bank with four million cu. m. of water a year and Palestinians with 25 million, Epstein said.

In Gaza, settlers pay NIS 0.56 per cubic meter of water, while Palestinians pay NIS 1.04.

Epstein said Mekorot charges Palestinians in Gaza less than in the West Bank because it is cheaper to bring water to Gaza, and only a small amount - five million cu. m. a year - is involved. The rest of their water comes from local wells.

He said the 5,000 settlers pay the subsidized rate for agricultural water since most of their activities there involve farming.

Nashashibi said he also discussed with Tzur ways to reduce the Palestinian trade deficit with Israel. He said Palestinian imports from Israel amounted to \$12 billion a year, while exports were only \$200 million.

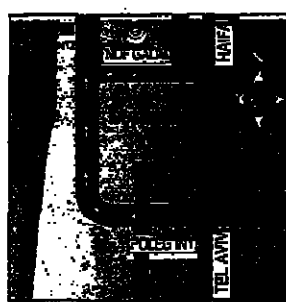
He urged Israel to buy more Palestinian goods. He also said the Palestinians sought to amend the economic agreement with Israel to allow them to buy more goods from other countries such as Jordan. (Reuters)

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## Assad's tactics

A prominent American columnist - acting at the instigation of the State Department - recently upbraided Syria's dictator Hafez Assad for not sending Rabin's widow a condolence note to prove his humanity and desire for peace. Like most Westerners, he could not understand how an obviously intelligent leader like Assad failed to realize that no Israeli government could be more eager to make concessions than the present Meretz-Labor coalition. Surely the Syrian ruler must know that a missed opportunity now means an indefinite postponement of Syria's return to the Golan.

What none of these observers seems to comprehend is that Assad's assessment of his adversaries is far superior to theirs. He may not be familiar with what American historian James MacGregor Burns has said about negotiations: "History shows again and again that if you stick to your guns and don't compromise unduly, your sheer persistence is such that people will come around to you. There is something impressive about someone who is not constantly compromising and retreating."

But he obviously needs no such sage advice. Like all dictators in this century, Assad realizes the tremendous advantage an absolute ruler has over democracies. While democratic leaders, reflecting the wishes of their electorate, are committed to the pursuit of peace, dictators are accountable to no one. They can manipulate the negotiations as cynically and as long as they see fit. And they can be certain their peace-hungry adversaries will indeed "come around."

The distance Assad has managed to make Israel and the US travel since the negotiations began is nothing short of stunning. When the Labor-Meretz government came to power, it was expected that its dovishness would delight the Syrians. And as if on cue, diplomats and statesmen visiting Damascus returned with glowing reports of Assad's seriousness about reaching an agreement. Then-foreign minister Shimon Peres spoke of "sensational" developments.

Encouraged, the government began talking of a "painful" withdrawal, a euphemism for almost total retreat. But it still insisted on tough security measures: a drastic reduction in Syria's armed forces; a demilitarized zone up to and beyond Damascus; a Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon; the termination of Syrian support for terrorist groups, both Palestinian and Lebanese-Shi'ite, and the expulsion of their headquarters from Damascus; a gradual, five-to-eight-year-long Israeli withdrawal accompanied at its very first stage by full normalization of relations.

But all these suggestions, proposals and ideas were no more than US-Israeli exercises in negotiating with themselves and the press. Assad himself never budged from his original position. Israel had to withdraw from all territories it captured from Syria in 1967 and from Lebanon in 1982. Only after an announcement by the Israeli prime minister committing Israel to total withdrawal, would Syria negotiate a vaguely termed "comprehensive peace," the meaning

of which will become clear only at the talks.

Faced with this intransigence, Israel sent Assad a message through the US, indicating it would withdraw from the whole Golan if it could be assured of "a warm peace" - full normalization of relations, guaranteed access to water sources and free movement of people and goods - and adequate security measures.

All the other demands were dropped. Not only would Assad not have to reduce his forces, he could stay in Lebanon with full Israeli approval. The government even intimated that the Syrian army in Lebanon could control the Hizbullah more effectively than the weak Lebanese. (By doing this, Israel in effect sealed Lebanon's fate as a Syrian vassal.) To make up for all these concessions, Israel sought Washington's agreement to stationing American troops on the Golan.

But Syria's position stayed precisely what it had been when the negotiations began. And Israel, having agreed to virtually all Syria's demands, including the total evacuation of the Golan and Lebanon, is now reduced to trying to entice the Syrians with grandiose economic schemes and arguing over whether it should retreat to the June 4, 1967 line or only to the international border.

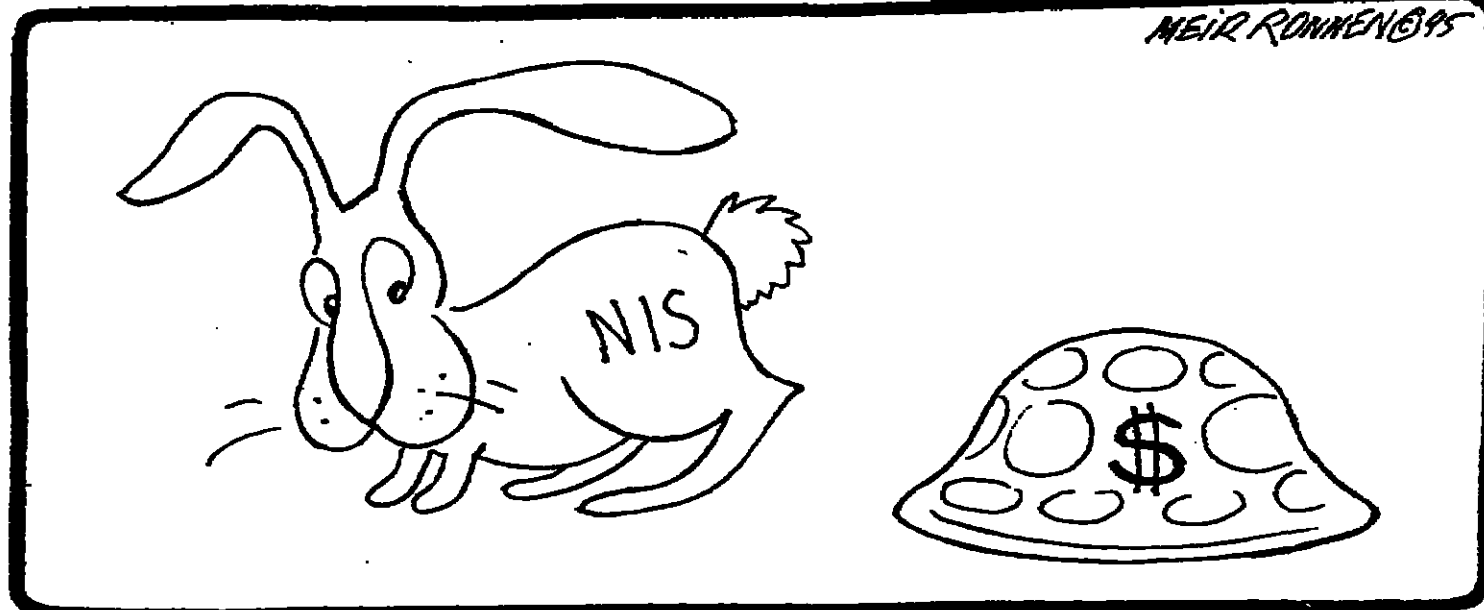
In this, the US will probably come to the rescue, suggesting a compromise between having Syria right on the shore of Lake Kinneret or a few meters away from it. Yet Syria is still refusing to say anything about the kind of peace it envisions.

What animates the government in making all these preemptive concessions is the belief that peace is the most important security component. One Israeli correspondent aptly described the government's new flexibility: "While Rabin wanted to reach peace through security, Peres wants to attain security through peace." Peres clearly assumes it is possible to establish here the kind of peace which exists among Western European countries.

But it was none other than Peres himself who previously expressed grave doubts about such a prospect. Only a year ago, in October 1994, he was asked by AP correspondent Barry Schweid at the Washington National Press Club why there was a need for early warning stations "in this philosophical age of brotherhood."

Peres replied: "There may be somebody else in Syria that didn't notice the change, and they can again employ their tanks and planes. We must be careful. We have so many old-fashioned people living around us that you must have also old-fashioned answers to stop them from doing mistakes." To which Schweid replied: "Well, one of them is to keep the Golan Heights. That's an old-fashioned answer."

As Chief of the General Staff Lt.-Gen Amnon Shahak has put it, there is no substitute for the strategic importance of the Golan. Unless, of course, the old-fashioned neighbors Peres alluded to last year have all been transformed into ardent promoters of brotherhood, democracy and European-style peace.



## Stop citing Gandhi and King

SHLOMO AVINERI

ZO Artzenu's recent call for "nonviolent civil disobedience" raises the question of the logic and legitimacy of civil disobedience in democratic societies.

Those who support such strategies justify their approach by reference to the heritage of Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.

This is a travesty of history, as the conditions in which those two personalities figured differed totally from the political context of Israeli democracy.

Civil disobedience is a legitimate strategy of liberation from oppressive, nondemocratic regimes. Its application to democratic societies is a total falsification of its basic tenets.

Gandhi was fighting for India's independence from British colonial rule. As part of the British empire, India was ruled autocratically and undemocratically. Indians could not elect their government or representative bodies.

The British viceroy and the government of India were appointed by London and were totally unanswerable to the Indian population. There were no elections to an Indian parliament, laws were enacted by the British occupying power, and there were no legitimate means of changing the government, or of electing an alternative one.

India was a conquered nation,

and under such conditions, civil disobedience was the only way open to Indians to assert their right to liberty, self-determination and representative government.

The situation in the Deep South in the 1960s was more complex, but basically the same. In states like Alabama and Mississippi, blacks were not only segregated in education, public transport, restaurants and other public facilities, but were also excluded from the franchise.

ment by state, county and local authorities.

Alabama governor George Wallace even maintained that, based on the pre-Civil War doctrine of states' rights, Supreme Court jurisdiction infringed on Alabama's internal affairs.

When King and his associates, many of them liberal Jews (including a significant number of rabbis), engaged in nonviolent civil disobedience in the Deep South, they were not flouting the law of the land.

### Civil disobedience is legitimate in oppressive, nondemocratic regimes. It has no place in Israel

All kinds of Jim Crow laws made it impossible for blacks to vote in most of the Deep South, despite the fact that in many counties and in at least one state (Mississippi) they constituted the majority of the population.

Federal laws and US Supreme Court decisions declared most of these local customs and laws unconstitutional, and were beginning to eat away at this system of segregation, exclusion and disenfranchisement. But federal statutes were ignored and not imple-

On the contrary, they were demanding that the law of the land - federal legislation and judicial decisions, which mandated equality and declared segregation unconstitutional - be implemented by obstructionist local white racist authorities.

It was the local police chiefs in Selma and Birmingham who were defying the law, trying to hide behind local laws declared unconstitutional by the highest court in the land.

In fact, King and his followers

were accompanied on their marches by FBI agents representing the power of the law, and defending the marchers against the illegal activities of the local authorities.

THERE IS no parallel between these situations in India and the Deep South, and Israel.

In a democratic society, with elections, a parliament, and the right to protest, every citizen has access to legitimate ways of changing the government, or reversing policies. Civil disobedience is not a legitimate vehicle in the public discourse of a democratic society.

It is for these reasons that refusing to serve in the territories, or in Lebanon, was an illegitimate means of public protest. Those who engaged in it were justly put on trial and, if found guilty, sentenced to prison.

The same applies today to the opponents of the Oslo agreements.

Political organizations and legitimate means of protest are open to them. But the latter does not include civil disobedience, which has no place in an open society that freely elects its government and can replace it by legal political means.

The writer, professor of political science at the Hebrew University, is the author of *The Making of Modern Zionism*.

## Making the best of a bad deal

ARIEL SHARON

NOW that Oslo 2 is being implemented, we must ask what measures can forestall dangers and give us security.

I would first and foremost insist that the Palestinian Authority keep every provision in the agreement. Currently, it routinely violates many of them. I would inform the PA in no uncertain terms that if terrorism continues from the areas under its exclusive control, and if terrorists find shelter in the evacuated Arab towns, Israel will have to exercise its right of preemptive action and hot pursuit whenever necessary. It is entirely possible that this warning itself would prompt the PA to treat terrorism seriously.

Oslo 2 delineates three zones. Zone A is under complete Palestinian control, and C is under Israeli control. In Zone B the responsibility for civil affairs is in the PA's hands, while the overall security responsibility is Israel's. But the Palestinian police are also active in Zone B, in coordination with the IDF. The coordination is so complicated that Israel will find controlling and inspecting it well-nigh impossible. In effect, the arrangement turns Zone B into a sort of no-man's land. It is Oslo 2's greatest failure.

The struggle to create facts on the ground in Zone B has already begun. The Palestinians are determined to control as large an area as possible, while the Israelis, except for Judea and Samaria residents, display irresoluteness and a desire to get out.

Clearly, official Israel sees its presence in Judea and Samaria as temporary, which may lead to the loss of control over most of the Zone B areas that are vital for Israel's security. (It goes without saying that only the presence of the Jewish communities in these areas has prevented our being pushed from across the Green Line.)

THE NEXT stage in the Oslo agreement is scheduled to be implemented six months after the January 20 Palestinian elections. Following that, there are three more stages until May 1999. During this period, the Palestinians expect to enlarge their areas,

How do we avoid losing control altogether?

● Gradually and only to a limited extent, Zone A areas under Palestinian control can be extended at the expense of Zone B. The only exceptions are the Arab towns near the Green Line, where Palestinian control must not expand. This enlargement of Zone A can continue throughout the intermediate stages until it encompasses the areas of the final status.

● Zone B areas abutting Jerusalem and its satellites must also be exclusively under Israeli control.

● No fences should be built along the Green Line. Such fences would make us return to the 1967 lines. The minute a fence is built it will represent a border - an undefeatable border.

As mentioned above, the necessary intensive defense activity should cover a much wider area. If there is a fence, our activity will

stretching from the old cemeteries, through Tel Rameida, the Hadassah and Romano complexes and the Avraham Avinu synagogue, to the Machpela Cave, plus a connection to Kiryat Arba through the almost completely abandoned eastern casbah. Altogether a small section of the city.

Jews have lived for thousands of years in the Jewish quarter in Hebron. Their presence makes proper worshipping arrangements in the Machpela Cave possible. The quarter should be surrounded by a wall, with appropriate passage arrangements for Arabs still living in it. Similarly, arrangements should be made for Jews wishing to visit other historic sites in Hebron.

The Oslo agreement is bad and it is dangerous, but it is in the stages of implementation. The possibility of reversing it and implementing a different plan now seems unlikely.

What we must strive for is the reduction of future dangers, while keeping all possible available options. This plan should reduce friction, and afford security and calm to both sides.

The writer, a Likud MK, is a former defense minister.

### A reversal of Oslo seems unlikely. But its dangers can be lessened

● The Zone C areas must remain, intact, under Israel's responsibility. If the PA wants to provide education, welfare and health services to Arabs living in these areas, it can do so in coordination with Israel, as provided in the agreement.

● Wherever Zone B contains vital security areas, a permanent Israeli security force must be present. This must be done now, before the Palestinians establish facts on the ground whose reversal may cause unnecessary tension.

● A 15 to 20-km.-wide security belt must be established east of the Green Line. It is vital for the protection of the Jewish population living along the shore and down to the southern slopes of the Hebron mountain, and it must have a permanent presence of Israeli security forces. Part of this strip is in Zone B, but it must be controlled solely by Israeli forces.

● Similarly, a 20-km.-wide security belt west of the Jordan River and the Dead Sea must remain under Israeli control.

● The same principle must be applied to the main arteries connecting the shoreline with the Jordan River and the Dead Sea, which also pass through areas now in Zone B. The width of these strips should be three to four km. on each side. To make Israel's defense line on the Jordan River viable, these strategic arteries must be kept secure.

naturally be focused along the length of the fence. In areas east of it activity will wane, and we shall gradually lose control over these areas.

● The transfer of authority to the Palestinians in Hebron will take place in March. Under the clear assumption that Jews will continue to live in Hebron, we must, while the city is in our hands, delineate the Jewish quarter. It should include the area

## POSTSCRIPTS

A JUDGE jailed a man who failed to return library books he checked out nearly four years ago.

Christopher Ashley, 23, spent three days behind bars on petty larceny charges. The books - an almanac, an atlas and two novels - are worth about \$80, according to the Norwood (New York) Public Library.

It was the first time the library had ever sought someone's arrest for overdue books. Usually letters from the library and the threat of a jail stay is enough to get the books or money back.

A BRILLIANT solution to Bangkok's horrendous traffic problems was proposed by a one-time deputy premier, Thaksin Sinawatra. He suggested that *Apocalypse Now*-style squads of US Chinook helicopters should be deployed to fly over the main

thoroughfares to heave broken-down vehicles out of the carriageways.

The government rejected the idea as extreme and instead is considering drafting 1,000 paramilitary border police, usually in the front line against heavily armed insurgents and drug traffickers, to deal with delinquent motorists.

A FULL MOON rising over the shadowy outline of a Venetian island, a gondola making its way across the lagoon in the moonlight, and the words "Manchi solo tu" (you're all that's missing) printed romantically across the bottom... the postcard has been selling like hot cakes.

But is it the perfect postcard for the loved one? On closer inspection, the message is double-edged: it shows San Michele, Venice's cemetery island.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### SHAHAL AND INTERNAL SECURITY

Sir, - Your editorial (Dec. 28) "Shahal and Internal Security" constitutes an unfair assault upon a minister of the State of Israel, his ministry and the Israel Police.

Minister of Public Security Moshe Shahal has no need to "capture headlines" or take part in "preliminary canards." Statements made by the minister are accurate and based on information relayed to him by the police or other official bodies.

On the subject of what is termed "the Russian Mafia," a misnomer in our opinion, as we are talking about a number of different criminal organizations and not one central one, a special unit has been set up at the National Serious Crimes Unit. This unit, numbering dozens of policemen, is in charge of investigating international crime, and naturally much of their efforts are concentrated on crime originating in the CIS. Minister Shahal has stated his intention to enlarge this unit.

At the instigation of the minister, the Israel Police has reinforced its representatives abroad. We now have two senior police officers in the CIS and the independent states. The Israel Police invests great effort in information-gathering concerning international crime and has had great success in preventing crimes such as the illegal import of drugs in large quantities.

On the subject of car theft, the minister set up a committee headed by the director-general of the ministry, which will make its recommendations shortly, including marking all car parts, forbidding the sale of used parts, and the possible use of electronic tracing devices, to find workable solutions. The minister will speed up the translation of the recommendations into actions.

A special anti-car-theft unit has

also been set up to arrest thieves who smuggle stolen cars into Judea and Samaria and to recover stolen cars generally. Recently they have had much success and in the past months the flow of stolen cars into the territories has been partially checked.

On January 1, 1996, the Israeli Police, together with other organizations, is starting an unprecedented campaign to combat road accidents under the slogan "Your life is in your hands." Undoubtedly this subject is high on the list of our priorities.

I could address all the points in the editorial, but suffice it to say that crime, unfortunately, is always with us and cannot be 100 percent prevented.

The Israel Police is proud of its achievements in crime solving, having a solve rate of close to 30 percent of all reported crime, much higher than many other "enlightened" countries.

Lastly, on the subject of the Palestinian Authority, the minister is constantly in action, preventing activities of the PA in Jerusalem, as called for by law. Active members of the Palestinian Police in Jerusalem have been questioned and even arrested, and the case of the editor of *Al-Kuds*, although not officially reported to the Israel Police, is being investigated.

The paper would have been well advised to turn to our office before resorting to inaccurate statements in order to be able to present a fair version of the facts to the public, who fortunately do not always believe everything they read in the newspapers.

RAFI LEVY  
Spokesman,  
Ministry of Internal Security  
Jerusalem.

### UNJUSTIFIED ACCUSATION

Sir, - Your December 1 edition reported that longtime Rabin aide Shimon Sheves delivered a speech in which he "directly blamed the Likud for the incitement which inspired and led up the assassination."

Yet your issue of December 13 reported that Attorney General Michael Ben-Yair, after investigating the "incitement" allegations, concluded that "the person who killed the prime minister did not do so under the influence of incitement... He acted due to a complete worldview which he had developed... It wasn't because of a poster here or there."

In the wake of the attorney general's statement, will Mr. Sheves now retract the accusations he made against Likud?

HERBERT ZWEIBON,  
Chairman,  
Americans for a Safe Israel  
New York.

### THE GOLAN OR PERES?

Sir, - In "Holding on" of December 24, Larry Derfer claims he will vote no on a referendum on the Golan. On the other hand, he will continue to support and vote for the Labor Party because they are doing "a very good job."

What he fails to recognize is that Peres plans on using people like Larry to get himself re-elected. In other words, the coming elections themselves will be the referendum! So Larry Derfer, what is it going to be? A vote for the Labor/Peres government will be a vote for returning the entire Golan. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

JONATHAN STAV  
PETAH STAV  
Tel Aviv.



# Ignorance isn't bliss

**W**HEN Shimon Peres's government was presented to the Knesset for a vote of confidence following the Rabin assassination, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu declared that the Likud would not go along with the proposition that an assassin's bullet could change a government.

He then led the Likud in abstaining, rather than voting no confidence in a government whose policies it clearly opposed. It was a commendable gesture, and it strengthened the fabric of Israeli democracy.

But close to two months after the assassination, we can see that even if the assassin's bullet did not radically change the government in its personal makeup, it has been the biggest factor in bringing about a major change in policy.

Peres is pursuing vastly different policies from those of Yitzhak Rabin, without there having been any formal decision by the government — much less by the Knesset or any broader public debate — to provide democratic legitimation for the shift.

Take the issue of the ongoing negotiations with the Palestinians. Peres has long supported a functional compromise with the Palestinians, and a maximum of integration between the different populations, their economies, and societies.

Rabin just as clearly espoused the idea of a clear territorial compromise and a maximum of separation.

Rabin didn't have the vaguest idea of how to implement an effective separation between Israel and a Palestinian entity in the territories that Israel would be giving up under the Oslo agreement.

And Peres? All the evidence points to the fact that he is also at a loss over how to implement his vaguer and even more problematic approach of functional divi-

YOSEF GOELL

sion and integration, satisfying at the same time Palestinian aspirations to independence and Israeli demands for personal security.

Neither approach was ever spelled out or debated anywhere much less before the cabinet. Rabin conducted his peace policy holding his cards close to his chest. Only foreign minister Peres was privy to some of his intentions.

Peres is less of a loner than Rabin was. He may be sharing many of his intentions with Minister Yossi Beilin and Foreign Ministry Director-General Uri Savir — but with no one else.

THE difference in approach be-

**Voters will have a hard time deciding between different policies, because neither Peres nor Netanyahu has leveled with them**

tween Rabin and Peres with regard to the Golan and the red lines that should be observed in negotiating with the Syrians is even starker. But the cabinet has in effect given Peres, as it gave Rabin, carte blanche to conduct his own personal policy.

We are not a monarchy; nor are we a presidential system where policies on life-and-death issues may be conducted by personal whim. But that is what has been happening.

Last week, there was something of a flap over a Third Way ad campaign reminding the public that Peres is the last surviving minister of the Labor government that was in office during the Yom Kippur War.

"Fool," cried outraged Laborites. "How can one possibly hint that Peres, who was a very junior minister of transport and communications at the time, shared the blame for whatever went wrong at the outset of that traumatic war?"

Very true — in the narrow sense of the concept of ministerial responsibility.

But in a broader sense, Peres does share the blame. He was, after all, a cabinet minister who had served for many years as deputy defense minister. But he didn't use his position in the Golda Meir government to even question what was going on.

The sheep in today's government similarly do not dare to question what lies behind their prime minister's major shift in direction. In the same way, they didn't question the private-policy approach of Yitzhak Rabin.

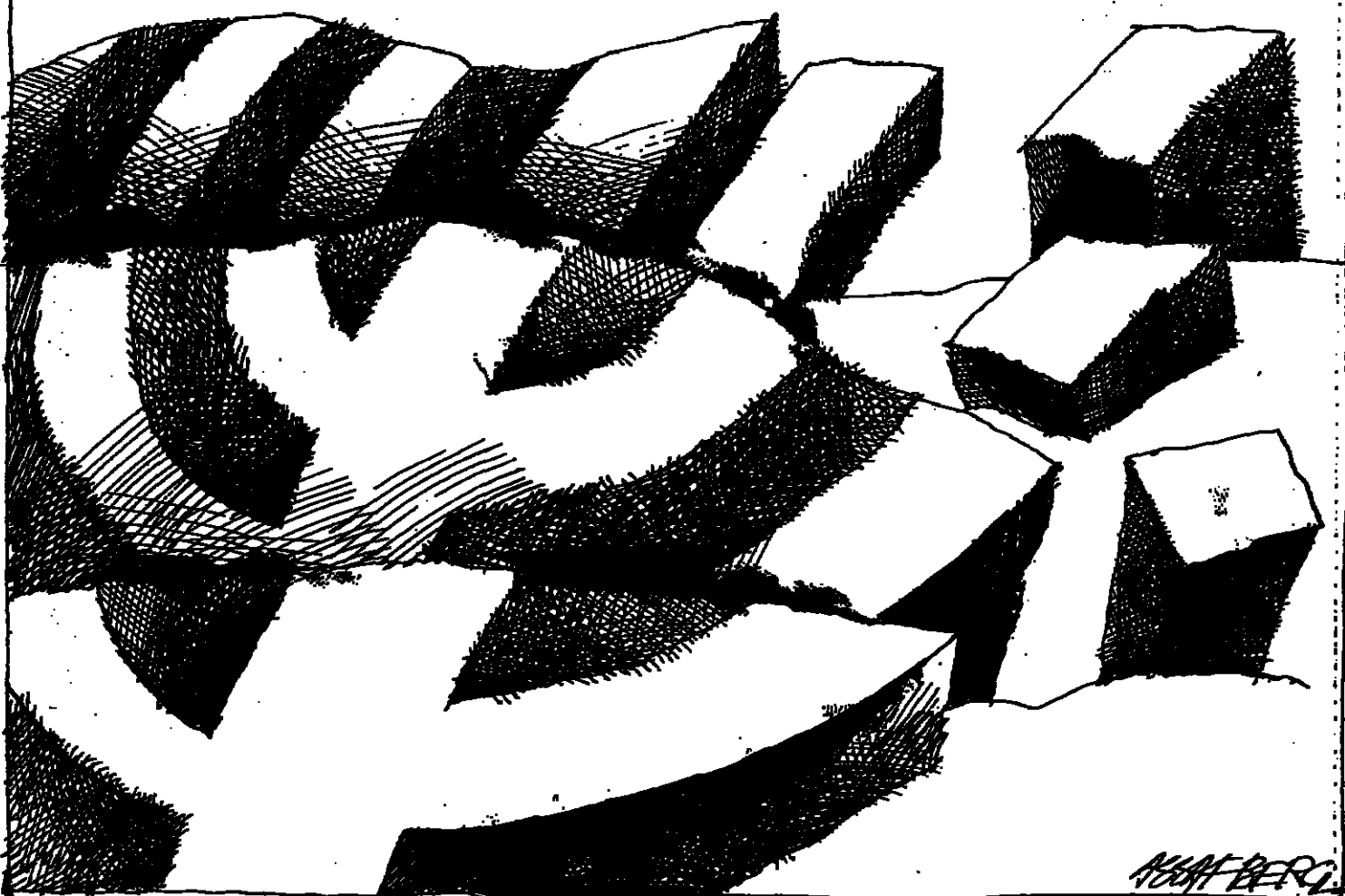
How can close to 20 ostensibly responsible political leaders support one policy and its opposite without question? Ignorance by default does not absolve them of responsibility for what is being done in their name.

In an election year, that responsibility will devolve upon us, the voters. We will be called upon to decide between different policy approaches. But neither Peres, nor, for that matter, Netanyahu, has been leveling with the public about what they intend, or about the implications of their different approaches.

Given their respective obfuscation of the issues, the public's decision will be forced to boil down to whom it trusts.

For the politicians, trust boils down to this: Who can lead them to victory at the polls? For the voters, the only possible answer is that neither leader has so far proven himself worthy of the nation's trust.

The writer comments on current affairs.



## 'Real estate' vs. human life

JONATHAN BLASS

**T**HE IDF has left Nablus and Bethlehem, and the flag of a foreign nation lies over the cities of my homeland.

The bitter prophecy of Isaiah (1.7) "Your land, strangers devour it in your presence," has been fulfilled yet again in an age when the armed might of the Jewish state has made foreign military conquest of Israel's cities a near impossibility.

Once more relevant is the talmudic teaching of Rabbi Elazar (reaffirmed by Maimonides and the Shulhan Aruch) requiring Jews who see the cities of Judea under foreign domination — to rend their garments in mourning.

Why mourn a land? Why cry over rocks and mud, pine trees and barren hilltops? Aren't these just "real-estate," less important than the life of a single soldier called upon to risk himself in their defense?

Commonly heard is the thesis that the issue dividing right and left in Israel is the relative importance of land and human life. But that this is even seen as a question calls into doubt the vitality of Jewish nationalism.

This is because all nationalism subordinates the life of the individual to the national interest, not least of which is the nation's territorial integrity.

There can, for example, be no English national identity without England, no French national identity without France. A nation's land has never been a function of security alone. It is essential to its self-definition. Land is an organic part of the national identity, much as the human body is an indispensable element of the identity of the individual man. Neither is just spirit alone.

Recognizing this truth, Yosef Trumpeldor, echoing the cries of American patriot Nathan Hale and of other patriots throughout history, declared as he lay dying in Tel Hai, felled by the bullets of Arab marauders: "It is good to die for our land."

Zionist pioneers implicitly acknowledged the same principle when they came to settle malarial swamps, risking their lives to reclaim the land of Israel for the Jewish people.

What motivated them to self-sacrifice was more than the feeling that they were jeopardizing the lives of the few to guarantee the lives of the many. It was also their sense that they were building a nation.

## Why mourn a land? Why cry over rocks and mud, pine trees and barren hilltops?

nationalism is in crisis. It should come as no surprise.

A recent issue of *Newsweek* reported that secular schools in Israel taught their students that Israel's significance to Jews is as a "haven."

Is the English claim to England or the French claim to France based on the need for a "haven" for Englishmen and Frenchmen? Are only Jews unentitled to a

land of their own, except as a place of escape?

ISRAELIS regularly hear that Jewish nationalism is racist, that it is wrong for there to be even one small place on the globe that is particularly Jewish, where only the Jewish people is sovereign to determine national direction. To be democratic, it is contended, Israel must belong to all of its

unjust discrimination if, opting to reside outside my nation's homeland, I am not allowed to participate in deciding the direction of the foreign country in which I live.

Though not the American "melting pot" mode, it is appropriate for a nation loyal to its sense of common destiny and national purpose.

And, as Hamlet put it, "there's the rub." Lowering the Star of David in Bethlehem — the city of King David's birth, and touting individual life as more important than Jewish sovereignty to the Jewish homeland, are symptoms of a still greater problem that ultimately must be addressed: the loss of our sense of national purpose.

Until it is rediscovered, and barring a miracle, mingled with our exhilaration at the existence of the State of Israel will be the mourning forced on us as we watch "strangers devour our land" through no fault but our own.

The writer, rabbi of Neveh Tsid in Samaria, heads Ratzon Yehuda, a rabbinical training program for graduates of Yeshivat Hesder.

## Labor's realistic policy

**I**RVING Kett displays a profound ignorance of this country's history in his article "Saga of unrequited love" (December 18).

It would be difficult to find any episode less relevant to Israel's problems today than the story of Brit Shalom and Ihud, to which he devotes most of his space.

The level of his understanding is revealed in his description of such men as the late Martin Buber as members of "that insane segment of Jewish intellectuals whom Joseph Stalin called 'shameless cosmopolitans.'"

As he says, these organizations were attacked by all Zionist groups, including Mapei, the predecessor of today's Labor Party. Mapei was, of course, led by David Ben-Gurion, and today it is headed by Ben-Gurion's foremost disciple, Prime Minister Peres.

Shimon Peres, like the late Yitzhak Rabin and their associates, is as far removed from Brit Shalom as I presume, retired Col. Kett is from communism (although he does not balk at using a typical Stalinist libel to prop up his arguments). Unlike our outspoken professor of engineering, Peres and Rabin devoted their lives to Israel's progress and security.

Labor policy, of which Peres is an authentic exponent, has been based on grim realism, not on any sentimental love for Arabs. It has combined the building and maintenance of a strong army with readiness to negotiate for peace when the Arabs came to the conclusion that they could not eliminate Israel by terrorism and military force. There is no love involved on either side.

Rabin repeatedly warned against the creation of a binational state, which would be the inevitable result of the annexation of the territories that came under Israeli rule in 1967. He summed up his position in this newspaper (June 1, 1992) during the election campaign:

MISHA LOUVISH

"I am unwilling to give up a single inch of Israel's security, but I am willing to give up many inches of territory — as well as 1,700,000 Arab inhabitants — for the sake of peace."

After three years of stubborn negotiations, this principle has been implemented, with widespread approval after the event, in the Gaza Strip, and a beginning has been made in applying it in the West Bank.

The object is the consummation of Zionism by the achievement of peace with most of the Arab world.

YOSEF Goell is, of course, a

**The peace process has nothing to do with love. Its object is the consummation of Zionism through peace with most of the Arab world**

very different kettle of fish; but his long and intimate knowledge of Israeli affairs didn't prevent him from making some very dubious statements in his article "Democracy: A daily plebiscite" (December 15).

First, facts. It isn't true that in his 1992 election campaign Rabin promised "never to negotiate with the PLO." On the contrary, this undertaking was deliberately dropped at the party convention the previous year. The convention also called for the repeal of the law prohibiting contact with the PLO.

Secondly, the Ben-Gurion attitude, reiterated by Peres, of doing what is good for the people, without constantly asking what the people want at any particular moment, is in keeping with the

basic principles of representative parliamentary democracy, as authoritatively expounded by the 18th-century British philosopher Edmund Burke.

A representative of the people undertakes to dedicate his skill and understanding to their service, not to ask them for instructions all the time. If they disagree with him, they can dismiss him at the next election.

The government is entitled to make full use of its term of office to implement its policies. The demand for consensus before any important steps are taken means giving the minority the power of veto over the actions of the majority.

In our case, it means perpetuating the Likud's policy of deadlock in the peace process, with the inevitable continuation of the intifada, when the government has received a mandate to transform the situation — a mandate which it has not yet exhausted.

There are signs that the policy of democratic leadership is paying off. The widespread shock at the assassination of Rabin has, logically or not, increased support for the government and its peace policy.

Although the West Bank cities are being handed over to the Palestinians, the only demonstrations have been those of the religious Zionists, devoted to soul-searching. Some of the settlers in Judea and Samaria have been seeking ways to cooperate with their newly self-governing Palestinian neighbors. The polls have shown an increase in the number of those willing to approve withdrawal from the Golan.

It seems that the government has not been racing so far ahead of the people after all.

The writer is a veteran member of the Zionist and Labor movements.

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World Mizrahi and Western Olim Organization cordially invite you to their next function with guest speaker  
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Chief Rabbi of Efrat  
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## LOUIS GAFSON ז"ל

(Dublin, Ireland)

A memorial service will be held at  
The Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, Shimon junction,  
Beit Shemesh road (off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv  
highway at Sha'ar Haggal)  
on Wednesday, January 3 (11 Tevet), at 3:45 p.m.

The Family

enquiries: 09-910176



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We mourn the sudden death of our good friend  
and enthusiastic supporter

## ARON KAHANA

and extend our deepest sympathy to the family  
on their loss.

His memory will live in our hearts forever.

With deep sorrow, we announce the passing of our  
beloved mother and grandmother

## RUTH BROWN ז"ל

of New York

The funeral and shiva will be held in New York.  
Her children, Robert and Judy Brown

Helen and Alfred Brandonis

Larry Brown

Her grandchildren, Ari Brown and Judy Cohen  
Noam, Eltan and Eihanan Brown  
Jardena and Kendra London

With deep sorrow, we announce the death of our beloved  
mother and grandmother

## LILLY SEGAL ז"ל

The funeral took place yesterday,  
Thursday, December 28, 1995 (5 Tevet 5756).  
Shiva at the home of Leah Weiss, 25 Dreyfus St.,  
6th Floor, Ramat Shaul, Haifa

The bereaved family:

Daughters: Roni and Ehud Goldberg

Leah Weiss

Grandchildren: Sharon, Elad, Tamar, Eilat, Merav

Great-granddaughter: Hader



To Norma Cummings and the Family

We are with you in your grief on the passing of

## JACK CUMMINGS

A true friend of the State of Israel  
and a loyal supporter of the City of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Roni Milo

Mayor of Tel Aviv-Yafo

Chairman of the Tel Aviv Foundation

David Altman

Managing Director

The Tel Aviv Foundation

My dear husband

## MAURICE C. BRIDGMAN

is no more.

The funeral will take place on Saturday,  
December 30, 1995 at 12 noon  
at the Protestant Cemetery in Haifa.  
Condolence calls may be made at his home,  
10 David Pinsky St., Carmel.

Frieda Bridgman and the Family

The Jerusalem Post extends its deepest

condolences to

Sam and Family

on the passing of

## DINA ARGENTARO ז"ל

The Jerusalem Post Management  
and Staff

To Sidney Rosenberg and his Family

Our deepest condolences on the death of

Your MOTHER ז"ל

The Management and Staff of Fischer Pharmaceuticals Ltd.

To honor the memory of

## YEHUDA BITTERMAN ז"ל

The unveiling of the tombstone will take place at Her Hazetim  
on Thursday, January 4, 1996, at 3 p.m.  
Meeting place: 2:40 p.m. at 29 Shvuel Yisrael St.  
(next to the Ministry of Education)  
Security will be provided.

The Family

Unveiling of the monument for

## Rabbi Dr. ISAAC LEWIN ז"ל

will take place at Her Hazetim, Kollet Pofin section  
Sunday, 8 Tevet 5756 (December 31, 1995) at 10 a.m.  
Bus from the upper parking lot, Yemin Moshe, 9:30 a.m.

# NATO upbeat over Sarajevo frontlines pullback

NATO marked the first week of its Bosnia mission on a high note yesterday after warring parties pulled back from Sarajevo frontlines flashpoints on cue.

But the alliance encountered a setback from "General Winter" as rain and melting snow threatened to slow deployment of the main body of peace troops, eventually to number 60,000.

Separatist Serb and Moslem-led government forces withdrew from all 40 designated hot spots on the Sarajevo front-line by a midnight Wednesday deadline, seen as a first test of their willingness to honor the Dayton peace agreement.

NATO confirmed yesterday both sides complied 100 percent with the pullback requirement in the Bosnian capital.

Diplomats cautioned against early euphoria, however, saying other forthcoming deadlines, particularly one for the return of Serb-held suburbs of Sarajevo to government rule within 90 days,

could be testing for both sides.

"At this early stage it appears that all parties are demonstrating a spirit of cooperation in complying with the peace agreement...there has been no offensive action by any side," the commander of NATO ground forces, Lieutenant General Sir Michael Walker, said.

Across the Bosnian border in Croatia, floods burst into a camp for US troops building a pontoon bridge to bring in thousands of their compatriots, in a second weather-related blow to the mission in 24 hours.

On Wednesday French helicopters had to rescue scores of Foreign Legionnaires when floods swept through their tented camp near Mostar in south Bosnia.

US officials vowed to complete the bridge near the Croatian town of Zupanja, a key link in a corridor bringing 20,000 US troops to their planned headquarters at Tuzla. (Reuters)

# Clinton to veto defense bill

WASHINGTON - President Bill Clinton was expected to veto a defense bill late yesterday, underscoring deep differences with Congress over how to balance the US budget and end an impasse that has partially shut the government.

As the government shutdown approached its second week, White House and congressional staff members met to work through some issues to pave the way for higher-level talks set for today.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Clinton was expected to veto the defense authorization measure. He said the president was concerned because the bill would authorize \$7 billion in funding for "weapons systems that even the Pentagon says are not needed for national security" and that would amount to unilateral US abrogation of nuclear arms-reduction treaties.

The bill includes development of an anti-missile system by 2003 to defend against limited missile attacks by rogue countries as pledged by Republicans in their "Contract With America." (Reuters)

# 5th French nuke test triggers fresh outrage

PARIS (Reuters) - France's fifth, and possibly penultimate, South Pacific nuclear test yesterday triggered a new wave of international protests and demands that the campaign be ended now.

Pacific countries led a chorus of outrage. Greenpeace, whose bid to stop the nuclear campaign failed last summer, called the blast "President Jacques Chirac's sad Christmas gift to humanity".

The underground explosion, staged in the holiday period between Christmas and the New Year perhaps to try to soften protests, took place on the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia at 2230 Paris time on Wednesday.

The Defense Ministry said the blast was equivalent to less than 30,000 tonnes of conventional explosives - roughly double the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

It was designed to improve France's ability to simulate nuclear tests on computers when it signs a comprehensive treaty banning nuclear blasts for ever next year.

Washington voiced disappointment. South Korean protesters hurled eggs at the French embassy in Seoul. Japan, Australia and

New Zealand called in French diplomats to deliver protests.

The 16-nation South Pacific forum, which suspended diplomatic ties with France over the tests last October, said Paris was showing total disregard for the countries of the region and a recent United Nations resolution demanding an end to nuclear tests.

Amid the outcry, France's ruling Gaullist party hailed Chirac's "determination to guarantee France's independence and the security of the French people".

A foreign ministry spokesman said France was pressing at Geneva talks for a total ban on any nuclear blasts from next summer. He said experts from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) would be invited to visit the atoll after the tests end to check that there was no damage to the environment.

The opposition Socialists said protests abroad and at home, plus the cost of the tests, "point to a gross political blunder".

Chirac insists the tests are crucial to achieve the ability to simulate tests in the laboratory and maintain the credibility of its nuclear force.

# Syria, Egypt, six Gulf states push for greater Arab unity

DAMASCUS (AP) - Syria, Egypt and the six Gulf Cooperation Council states yesterday called for greater Arab unity and seemed to be seeking to revive a moribund military alliance set nearly five years ago.

The foreign ministers of the eight Arab states also stressed the need for greater Arab economic cooperation "to face the current international challenges."

On the peace process, the group supported Syria's demands in its renewed ne-

gotiations with Israel and pledged to work toward a comprehensive peace settlement to end the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The eight states - which include Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain - are part of the so-called Damascus Declaration group which was formed in March 1991 after the Gulf War over Kuwait in which they were military allies against Iraq.

The alliance, under which Syria and

Egypt would deploy troops in the Gulf in return for \$10 billion in financial aid, never got off the ground.

But diplomats here said the foreign ministers' two-day meeting, which ended yesterday, was widely perceived as a genuine effort to revive the alliance.

In a final 14-page communique, the ministers endorsed a program for intensified political and economic coordination as well as military cooperation through bilat-

eral agreements between member states.

On the thorny issue of Iraq, the ministers held the Baghdad regime responsible for the suffering of Iraq's 20 million people because of UN sanctions imposed after Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The ministers declared support for ending the Middle East of weapons of mass destruction and renewed demands that Israel, the only nuclear power in the region, sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Arrest reported in Reno bomb attempt

RENO, Nevada (AP) - Two men have been arrested for allegedly planting a powerful bomb at the office of the Internal Revenue Service, the US tax collection agency, federal agents said yesterday.

Ellis Edward Hurst, 52, and Joseph Martin Baile, 40, were to face initial appearances yesterday before a federal magistrate in Reno.

The bomb, a 114-liter plastic drum, was found December 18 in a parking lot by a government employee arriving for work. It reportedly was packed with ammonium nitrate and fuel, the same type of ingredients used in the Oklahoma City bombing. The fuse to the bomb had been lit, but it went out and the bomb did not detonate.

### China upholds dissident's sentence

BEIJING (Reuters) - A Chinese court yesterday rejected the appeal of dissident Wei Jingsheng against a 14-year prison term for plotting to subvert the government, and relatives said they would sue the courts for dereliction of duty.

"The court upheld the original verdict," court spokesman Chen Xiong told Reuters.

Wei, 45, father of China's modern democracy movement, has no more appeals. "This is the final trial," the spokesman said.

### Spain's Gonzalez calls election on March 3

MADRID (Reuters) - Spaniards will elect a new government on March 3, Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez said yesterday, signaling what could be the end of his 13-year rule.

The general election, more than a year ahead of schedule, is likely to bring in a conservative government for the first time since Gonzalez's Socialists won power in 1982.

Opinion polls indicate a clear victory for the center-right Popular Party (PP) although it could fall just short of an overall majority.

### Red Cross registering Yemenis

ADDIS ABABA (Reuters) - Eritrea said the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) yesterday started registering nearly 200 Yemeni soldiers captured on a disputed Red Sea island.

Eritrea promised last week to hand over the prisoners to the ICRC. Organization of African Unity Secretary-General Salim Ahmed Salim flew to Asmara on Wednesday to witness the transfer and for talks with Eritrean President Isayas Afewerki.

Yemen, which says Eritrean forces seized Greater Hamish in fierce fighting on December 18, had demanded the release of the prisoners and an Eritrean evacuation before talks started on the conflict.

## JACQUES SCHWALBE ז"ל

Passed away peacefully on December 26, 1995.

Beloved husband of the late Hannah (Breuer) Schwalbe:

Cherished father of Gaby Goldblatt of London, England,

Peter Schwalbe, Robert Schwalbe and

Vicky Nathan of New York;

and adored grandfather and great-grandfather.

We deeply mourn the passing,  
on December 28, 1995 (5 Tevet 5756),  
of our dear wife, mother and sister

## Dr. CILLA WEINBERG

(née Rokach)

late of London (Hendon) and Tel Aviv

Harry Weinberg

Judy Richmond

Max Rokach

Lotte Avni

Shiva at Beit Jenny Breuer (Beit Gila), 4 Rehov Margolin,  
La Guardia, Tel Aviv

# Turkish anti-Islamist alliance plan wavers

ANKARA (Reuters) - Power struggles among Turkey's secularist politicians yesterday threatened to scupper a planned coalition to keep Islamists from power.

Conservative Motherland Party (ANAP) leader Mesut Yilmaz accused caretaker Prime Minister Tansu Ciller of hindering a proposed alliance.

He also appeared to weaken in his resolve not to hold coalition talks with the Islamist Welfare Party (RP).

"In my opinion, given the numbers in parliament, the most realistic government is a wide-based one - but Ciller is preventing this," former prime minister Yilmaz told reporters after meeting leftist leader Bulent Ecevit.

Ciller is reluctant to let Ecevit into the planned alliance.

The Islamists came first in Sunday's polls with 21 percent but do not have enough seats to form a government on their own.

But despite vowing not to hold coalition talks with the Islamists, Yilmaz said yesterday he might negotiate with them if they apologized for "insulting" him and his party during an election campaign marked by angry exchanges on all sides.

# Sheikh buys out entire stock of London shop

LONDON (Reuters) - A London store was keeping secret yesterday the identity of an Arab sheikh who swooped on its post-Christmas sale, buying the entire stock and even some of the fittings.

The sheikh, a member of the Qatar ruling family, paid £350,000 for the goods, including some 150 sofas, 150 chairs, 37 coffee tables and 80 table lamps, plus the shop's own wallpaper, its wooden floor and its till.

Martin Barnett, the owner of Charlotte's soft furnishings and furniture shop in central London, said the merchandise will now be shipped to Dubai.

But he declined to name his prize customer, who he said had entered the store and asked to buy it, under the mistaken impression that the "Sale" signs meant the whole shop was on offer.

"Apparently, his third wife had been in during the summer and he said she liked the concept," Barnett said.

"There was a crowd of people waiting for my sale to start and everyone was astonished. Now I will have to find some new stock," he added.

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# NEWS IN FOCUS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1995

## Israeli-Syrian relations slowly moving forward

**The groundwork for a settlement between Jerusalem and Damascus has been laid. Now it is up to the leaders to make the next move.**  
**Steve Rodan reports**

A year ago, then chief of staff Ehud Barak sat down with his Syrian counterpart, Hikmat Shihabi, for two meetings. Unlike the previous sessions conducted between Israeli and Syrian representatives, there were no speeches and no posturing. It was what the Israelis always sought: a warm open discussion. The military men compared personal notes and then discussed security.

"He [Shihabi] knew how to listen, not just to hear," recalls Maj.-Gen. Uri Saguy, then-chief of military intelligence, who participated in the sessions. "This was a man who came to do business."

The Israelis and Syrians didn't reach a formal agreement, but as Saguy recalls, each came away with a clear understanding of the security needs of the other and reported this to their superiors. Today, as the delegations of Israel and Syria wrap up their first round of negotiations since talks broke off last June, Israeli and Arab sources say, the groundwork for a settlement between Damascus and Jerusalem has been laid. The decisions remain with Syrian President Hafez Assad and Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"It's come down to whether the leaders are ready," a senior diplomatic source says. "There's nothing more the staffers can do except review the same subjects."

The decision for Peres, the source says, is whether he will announce Israel's willingness to withdraw from the Golan. For Assad, the question is whether he is willing to follow that with an announcement that Syria will grant full peace and normalization to Israel.

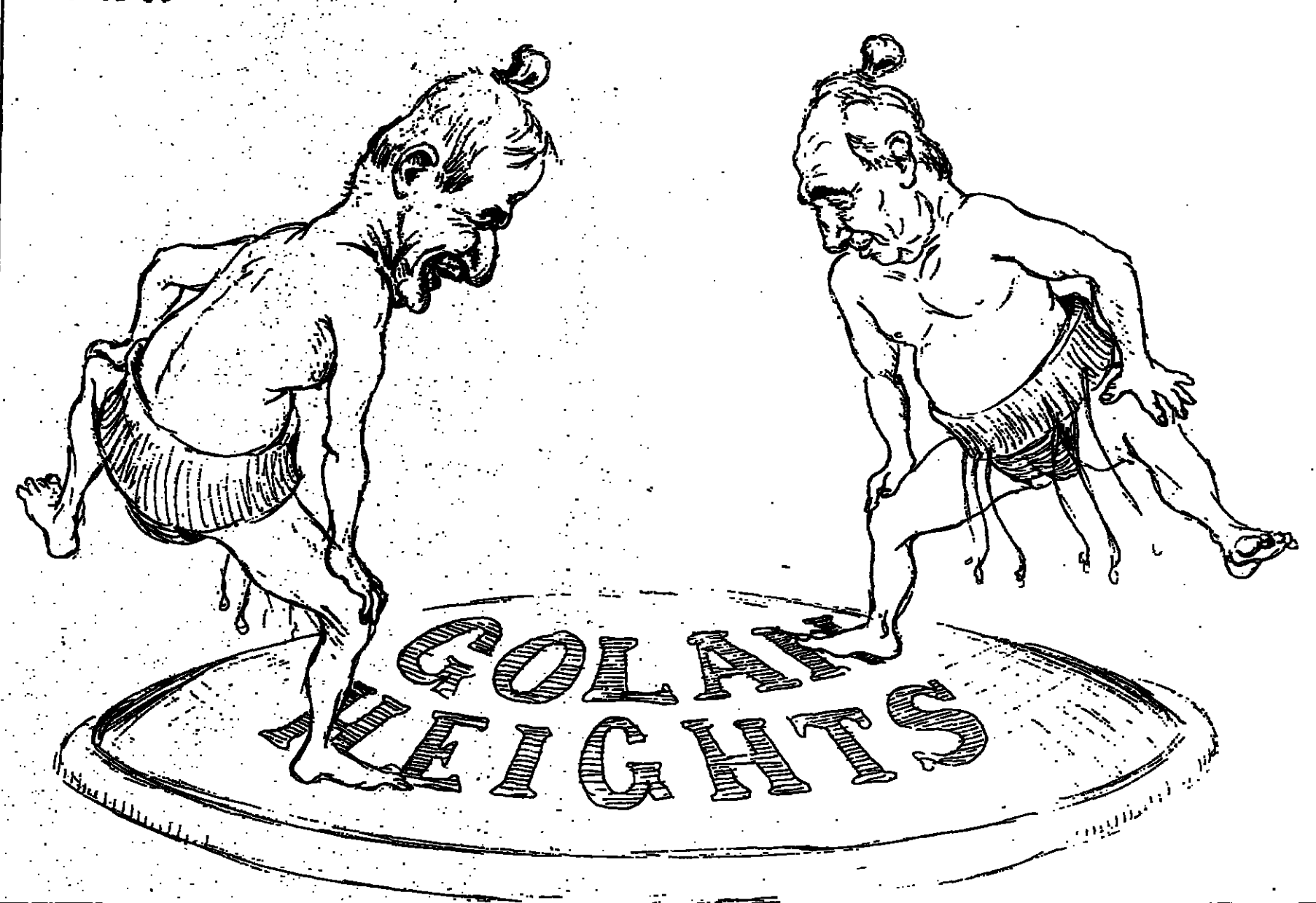
Currently, Peres's scenario is as follows. Within the next two weeks, there will be two rounds of negotiations with Syria. During that time, Peres will determine whether the signs of flexibility Assad demonstrated to the Americans and through private channels are reappearing in the formal negotiations being held in Maryland.

In late January, after the second round of talks, Peres will announce that Israel recognizes Syrian sovereignty over the Golan, diplomatic sources say. He will not, however, announce a complete withdrawal from the Golan. Within a month of this announcement, Peres hopes to meet Assad in Washington.

At the same time, the sources say, Israeli and Syrian negotiators will be hard at work to draft a peace treaty, or at least a declaration of principles, and agree to it by April, when it will then be signed by Peres and Assad. Foreign Ministry officials already have completed a draft accord, although it has not been presented to the Syrians.

In June, Peres plans to conduct parliamentary elections or hold a referendum on the future of the Golan Heights. Peres, who refuses to discuss his plans regarding Syria, is said to be convinced that the next two weeks are critical to implementing his policy. "I am happy [with] the new tone coming from Damascus," he says. "We never had such good music from the north as now. As the French say, 'The tone makes the music.'"

OLEG 95



warning stations. Rabin, however, wanted Assad to meet him in a public gesture that would convince the Israeli electorate of Syria's sincerity to achieve peace.

Assad refused, saying he would consider meeting Rabin only following an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal to the June 4, 1967, line, which included territory that Damascus captured after the establishment of the Jewish state.

By mid-1994, sources close to Rabin say, the prime minister quietly dropped his plans to announce Israel's willingness to withdraw from the Golan. The sources say Rabin was discouraged by the polls that showed little support for a full pullout as well as Assad's refusal to meet him. Instead, Rabin worked toward strengthening ties with Jordan and the Palestinians, a move he felt would pressure Damascus to demonstrate flexibility.

Still, at the urging of the Clinton administration, Rabin did not close the door on Syria. Last June, Rabin thought he could generate support for a Golan withdrawal when Israeli and Syrian negotiators met to discuss security arrangements on the Golan. But after one round of talks Assad refused to continue until the Israelis dropped their demand to negotiate Israeli-manned early-warning stations on the heights.

For Rabin, Assad's condition was a violation of his commitment to negotiate without preconditions. Rabin told US Secretary of State Warren Christopher that he first wanted the Syrians to return to the negotiating table before he would make any more commitments.

As Rabin saw it, Assad wasn't interested in a deal before the Israeli elections, scheduled for no later than October 1996. The

sources assessed the Syrian leader as having reasoned that should Rabin lose the Likud would eventually be prepared to agree to Assad's demands.

If that was the case then Rabin could wait as well. Aides say he decided to concentrate on the establishment of early-warning stations on the Golan.

"I think that Rabin raised the issue in an artificial way," says Moshe Maoz, a Syria expert at the Hebrew University and a consultant to both Rabin and Peres. "Rabin wanted to drag out the issue until after the elections. The excuse he had was the early-warning station."

Indeed, even the Americans were coming around to the notion that Assad wanted to wait until after the 1996 Israeli elections so that Syria would not be held hostage to the domestic politics and a referendum on the Golan. Since early 1994, the Clinton administration had been quietly planning a spectacular peace treaty ceremony in Washington after an Israeli announcement of full withdrawal—that would include Assad, Rabin and all the leaders of the Middle East, an event US officials hoped would result in a Labor government victory on the Golan referendum.

BUT QUIETLY, Israel and Syria continued to negotiate. Diplomatic sources say several channels have been employed. The most widely-used track was that of the Americans. US peace envoy Dennis Ross used his shuttles to narrow down differences between Damascus and Jerusalem on a wide range of issues. Privately, Assad has been giving Washington pledges on normalization and security that have kept the Israelis interested though not satisfied.

"The basic problem is you can't sell such a method to the

Israeli people as an incentive to give back the Golan," a diplomatic source says. "We want something dramatic that can change minds quickly."

The Israelis also have used other parties to send messages to Assad, including Cairo and Paris. Diplomatic sources say Rabin even succeeded in using a direct channel to Assad through the Mossad, though his aides insist that such an attempt failed.

The result, the sources say, is that Rabin and Assad quietly worked out an understanding over numerous issues, including demilitarization, water rights and a timetable for withdrawal.

A senior official source says Rabin, despite his reservations, had been moving toward a decision to announce a full withdrawal from the Golan.

"He was giving himself [until]

March at the latest to do this," the source says.

But Rabin was assassinated and Peres stepped in. He soon learned how close Israel was to a breakthrough with Syria after briefings by those most involved in the channel to Damascus, including Israel's ambassador to the US, Itamar Rabinovich; the prime minister's military secretary, Danny Yatom; and the heads of the Mossad and military intelligence.

At first, Assad was concerned about Peres, who was seen as the architect of the Israel-PLO accord, which the Syrian president regarded as a humiliating precedent. But Assad learned quickly that Peres would not treat the Syrians as he did the Palestinians. Instead, Peres signaled his willingness to hasten the pace of an Israeli withdrawal from Rabin's schedule of two to

three years.

During his meeting with US President Bill Clinton, Peres said that he would agree to any formula proposed for the return to the negotiations. He would also agree to a US presentation of bridging proposals to iron out the remaining differences between Israel and Syria.

Peres also said that he would not insist on security arrangements that Rabin had proposed. In addition, Peres told Clinton that Israel would support massive Western aid to Syria and the new prime minister would personally encourage Israelis to invest in Damascus.

The new prime minister also suggested that he would not object to a formalized Syrian occupation of Lebanon. As Peres put it later, his strategy was to give Assad a deal he could not refuse

without formally abandoning previous Israeli positions.

"There's been a change in style but not in substance," Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal says.

STILL, there are many outstanding issues whose resolution Israeli diplomats are uncertain about. One involves security arrangements on the Golan. The Syrians appear willing to demilitarize the Golan in exchange for similar arrangements on the Israeli side but object to any cut in military forces.

Peres, his aides say, is expected to be more flexible than Rabin in his approach to the security arrangements. Rabin was driven by his image as Mr. Security, something with which Peres was never saddled.

In addition, Peres says he believes that Israel is far stronger militarily than it was a decade ago and Syria knows this fully.

"To reach Damascus with our troops won't be much more difficult without the Golan Heights," a diplomatic source says. "If the Syrians attack us they know that we can wipe out Damascus if we have to."

Maoz, who remains close to Peres, agrees.

"Look at 1967, when Syria had the Golan plus Egypt and Jordan fighting alongside, and we still won," he says. "Early-warning stations are important. But if we can't be there, then the American presence is the next best thing."

However, Peres will be strict concerning water rights and the Lake Kinneret. Privately, he does not rule out arbitration to determine the Israeli-Syrian international border, which Syria never recognized.

But Peres wants a firm Syrian commitment that it will not claim any rights to Lake Kinneret, Banyas or Hamat Gader. Together with the Jordan River, these comprise the majority of Israel's water resources. Instead, Peres, taking a page out of his book of experiences with the Palestinians, is offering Assad joint projects to develop new water resources.

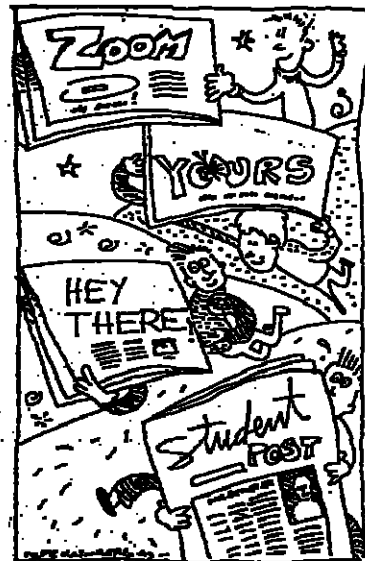
The assessment among some of Peres's aides, including those in military intelligence, is that Syria will not insist on Lake Kinneret or water rights in the area if Israel concedes on full withdrawal. This position, however, is widely disputed within both the government and intelligence agencies.

Saguy advises caution against rushing toward an agreement with Syria.

"There's an Arab saying that haste is the devil's work," he says. "There's a red line of [Israeli] security that cannot be crossed."

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# Health Insurance Law smells like roses

Despite being criticized in its first year of operation, the legislation has satisfied most of the public, **Judy Siegel-Itzkovich** reports

**T**HE law that we loved to hate isn't so hated after all. On the eve of its first anniversary, 59 percent of the public are "satisfied" or "very satisfied" with the results of the National Health Insurance Law. A total of 24% were either "not very satisfied" or "dissatisfied."

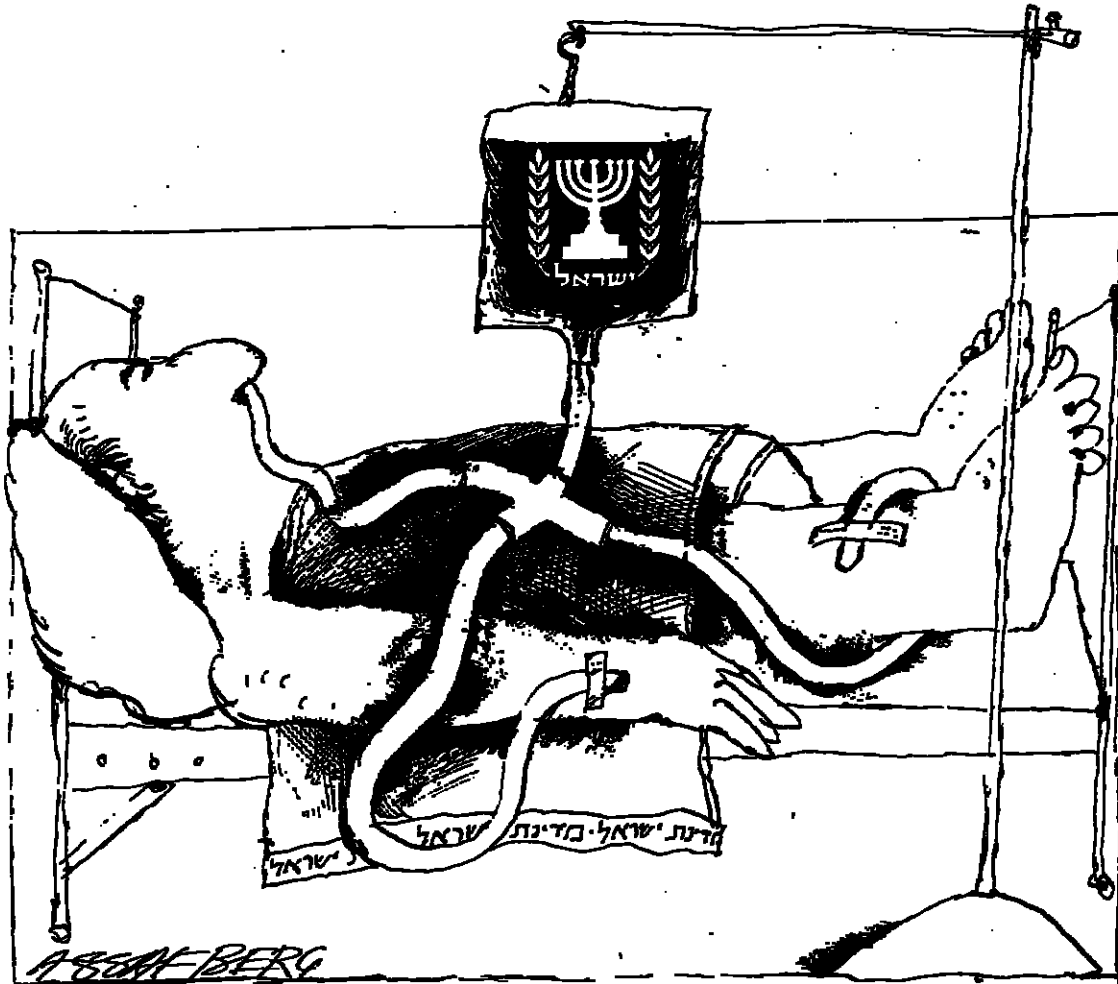
Fully 17% — a surprisingly large figure considering that nearly everyone has gone to the doctor or at least paid health taxes since January 1 — had no opinion.

The law, conceived by the Netanyahu State Judicial Commission on the Health System and by former health ministers Elud Olmert and Haim Ramon, was finally introduced by Health Minister Dr. Ephraim Sneh, who took office a few weeks before it was passed in the Knesset.

Criticism of the new system first erupted in February, as the first health taxes were deducted from paychecks according to a progressive income scale. Journalists, who tend to be middle class and have working spouses, paid much more on average than they had been paying in health-fund memberships. Their complaints in the media probably did not reflect the views of the public at large.

In recent months there was a second round of complaints as government estimates of health-tax collections fell considerably short of what was actually taken, and the health funds, hospitals and suppliers were caught up in a vicious cycle of debts and late payments.

Religious Affairs Minister Prof. Shimon Shetreet apparently fell for the journalistic assessment of the law, and recently called for its abolition. No one



else — cabinet members, medical professionals, hospital administrators or health-fund functionaries — has endorsed his view.

The legislation was very socially oriented. Among the benefits are that health funds can't turn down any member for reasons of age, religion, place of residence or condition of health. Members may switch to another health fund after six months of being in one. The Clalit fund has been severed from the politicized Histadrut, and instead of a quarter of dues going for political purposes, all go to health services. All residents of Israel are covered.

Before the system, a few hundred thousand were not covered, going to emergency rooms in hospitals only as a last resort.

There is an official basket of health services to which all residents are entitled. A progressive, income-linked tax is collected by the National Insurance Institute (NII). Pensioners pay much less. This is especially so among new immigrant pensioners who were not members of an Israeli

pension scheme.

**T**HE MAIN disadvantage so far is that health-tax collections were seriously underestimated by the NII and the Treasury — by about 10 percent, or some NIS 900 million a year.

As a result, the NII has been unable to distribute the expected amount of taxes among the health funds. The insurers are owed hundreds of millions of shekels, and they, in turn, owe the public hospitals. The hospitals are cutting back, queues are lengthening, equipment is in short supply. Many hospitals haven't even paid all their electricity bills.

The middle and upper-middle class are paying considerably more of their incomes in health taxes than they did in health fund membership dues. Working women's wages are largely responsible for this hike, since previously they enjoyed a tax credit to help cover some of their child-care expenses.

The basket of health services

does not include provisions for expansion as the population grows (through immigration and natural increase) and ages. Also, the spiraling costs of technological advances in health care were not figured into the basket of services. Updating the cost of the basket, in line with inflation, is one of 15 mooted amendments that Sneh says he will bring to the Knesset in the coming months.

According to the survey, conducted by the JDC-Brookdale Institute in Jerusalem, satisfaction was greater among those with less than a high-school education (63%) than among those who had been to college (54%). Also, not surprisingly, 72% of Israeli Arabs were pleased with the law, because they tend to have lower incomes and less access to the best health care.

According to JDC-Brookdale's Dr. Bruce Rosen and Dr. Ayelet Berg, the Arab sector is now regarded as an attractive one to the health funds, which intend to invest money in improved facilities in Arab areas.

Eight out of 10 of those surveyed had a direct contact with the health system between January and October of this year. (The corresponding figures in the US and Europe are much lower.) Although the majority expressed satisfaction with the law,

78% had not sensed any change in the level of service provided by their health fund. Of the 18% who did notice an improvement, most cited improved maintenance of clinics and better attitudes among staff.

Twelve percent said the selection of medications on the subsidized-drug list had improved, while 8% felt this list was more limited. Satisfaction with the professional level of doctors and administrative services (the ease of getting referrals and guarantees of payment, as well as lab services) ranged at a high 79 to 83%.

Most of the public have not joined additional (supplementary) health insurance schemes; opting into these extra policies was much more common among higher-income members of the smaller health funds (Maccabi, Meuhedet and Leumi) and much less frequent among generally lower-income Clalit members.

Three-quarters of those surveyed knew they were allowed to change health funds, but only about 2% reported that they had actually switched. (This may increase in a future survey, as there was only one six-month switching period by August, when the survey was launched, and 16% believed they would receive better services from a different health fund.) Pensioners were much less likely to have switched than younger people.

It was difficult to judge whether those who said they were paying more in health taxes really were: inflation would have hiked health-fund membership fees anyway, and few people actually compared their paycheck and bank-slip figures. But half of those who said they paid more preferred the new system. Former Russian immigrants were generally less satisfied with the new system than were veteran Israelis, but they were as pleased with hospital care as they had been under the old system, Rosen notes.

The health funds haven't yet put much effort into expanding preventive medical-care services or publicizing what they have done. "Maybe they wanted to see how the first year goes financially before they make a commitment to preventive care," Rosen suggests. Improving these services could be used to attract new members among an increasingly health-aware public.

JDC-Brookdale intends to carry out a similar poll on the health insurance system every year. But the real test of the year-old law will be in an analysis not of opinions but of how it functions. Perhaps the best indicator would be by how much life expectancy increases and the incidence of disease decreases over the next decade.



Penchas: If health taxes don't cover the cost, the government must take the rest from other Treasury sources. (A. Heyoun)

## 'A' for planning, 'F' for implementation

**P**ROF. Shmuel Penchas gives health officials an A for the planning of the National Health Insurance Law, but an F for its implementation. The government, charges the director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, has "broken the law and torn the heart" out of the law by ignoring its principle that the level of health services would not be dependent on the amount of money collected as health taxes.

According to the law, the Treasury was to cover any shortfall between the amount of money collected by the National Insurance Institute as health taxes and the amount of money spent on the basket of health services.

"It's scandalous," says Penchas. "We never dreamed the government wouldn't observe the law, so we didn't recommend any sanctions against such a violation. What could we do — fine the government, send them to jail?" Penchas, a veteran medical administrator, was a member of the Netanyahu State Judicial Commission on the Health System, which laid the groundwork for the law that went into effect a year ago.

He dismisses the recent proposal by Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet that the law should be replaced by the status quo ante. "It's a good law," he says. "But why roll the law back if the government has already reinstated the previous situation, in which the level of medical services

is dependent on the amount of money collected from citizens?"

Like all the other public hospitals, the two Hadassah-University hospitals are owed a huge sum (about NIS 60 million in this case) by the health funds, which have received hundreds of millions of shekels less in health taxes than they had been promised for 1995.

"Unlike the government hospitals, which automatically get salaries, we have to scrounge to cover all expenses," says Penchas. "We fill the gap by taking loans from banks and from research-and-development funds. Fortunately, suppliers are extending payback terms, but we can't go on much longer."

Penchas frequently complains to senior government officials, but "They plead poverty. Beiga [Finance Minister Avraham Shohat] says: 'I'm broke.' He's fearful of inflation and of raising taxes."

"But the basket of health services was set down in the law; if health taxes don't cover the cost, they must take the remainder from other Treasury sources, such as a higher tobacco tax or employers' tax or something else, or they could have set a reduced basket. In Oregon's state health insurance system, for example, liver transplants are not covered."

"But the government cannot now refuse to cover the costs on the grounds of inadequate health-tax collections," Penchas declares. J.S.-I.

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## It's not easy taking the public's temperature

**T**HE national health-insurance system should be put through a rigorous cardiac stress test to see how it is functioning. The JDC-Brookdale Institute researchers have so far used only a thermometer to take the public's temperature. For those who had hoped for more information, the data is disappointing.

The team was commissioned by the Knesset's Labor and Social Affairs Committee to monitor the implementation of the law during its first year of operation. But this has proved difficult, partly due to the dearth of available statistics.

The institute, headed by Hebrew University economist Prof. Jack Habib, has representatives of three government bodies (the ministries of Health and Finance and the National Insurance Institute) on its board, and is itself a

partnership between the Joint Distribution Committee and the government. But while an undisclosed amount of state money has been spent on the health-insurance law research project, none of it came directly from the Health Ministry, whose performance must be assessed.

Four JDC-Brookdale researchers have worked on the project: health policy research program director Dr. Bruce Rosen, Dr. David Chinitz, polling expert Dr. Ayelet Berg, and Dr. Revital Gross. Berg had at her disposal 20 public-opinion staffers to conduct a survey, between August and October 1995, of 1,400 Israelis over the age of 22.

"This is a very large, representative sample," Berg says. Many surveys query only a few hundred.

Those polled, says Rosen, a Harvard-trained economist, were

selected from the telephone book, but the sample was a representative one, with proportionate distribution of health-fund membership, age, sex, etc.

The questionnaire, written in Arabic and Russian as well as the original Hebrew, included general questions on levels of satisfaction with the law, as well as specific ones on the attitudes of hospital and clinic staffers, the availability of medications, physical conditions in medical facilities, level of health taxes and waiting times for care.

Asked why they hadn't produced a report on the actual implementation of the law and its effects on public health, Rosen shrugged his shoulders: "We are in the process of collecting more data and of analyzing what we have, but this is a very slow process. We are conducting follow-up research on previous studies

we have done on hospital and clinic services."

"We are looking at the way the health funds advertise, the information pamphlets they are producing, and other information. These reports will come out in the coming months," he says.

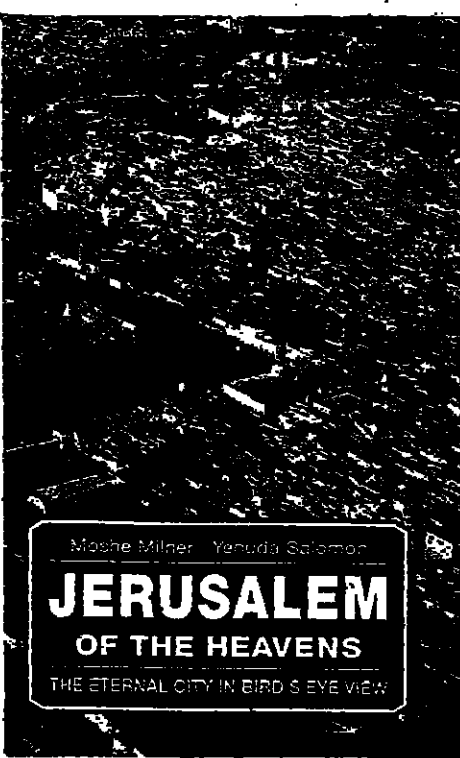
"But it's very hard to get information. No one, for example, has accurate, comprehensive data on the length of queues for operations and whether pregnant women are getting fewer ultrasounds under the new law compared to before."

In this the primaries season, Health Minister Ephraim Sneh was very pleased to announce that the public are, on the whole, happy with the new system. Under a barrage of journalists' criticism, Sneh announced the results on Channel 1's *Popolitica* program this week.

Asked by host Dan Margalit who pays more in health taxes than previously in health fund membership dues, the whole studio audience stood up. Sneh insisted that this group was not representative, and that 70 percent of the public are paying less in health taxes than before.

The question is whether residents' subjective feeling accurately reflects changes in health services. It may merely be due to a general national mood or a lack of real, personal contact with the health system. J.S.-I.

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## Katzover: Determined but biding his time

The settler leader from Eilon Moreh is expressing a more thoughtful, rather than defiant tone following the IDF pullout from Nablus, Abraham Rabinovich writes

THE wail of sirens from the Palestinian police cars arriving in Nablus the night the city changed hands was magnified as it echoed off the surrounding hills, signaling to the settlers in Eilon Moreh on the heights that a new time of testing had come.

"It was deafening," Benny Katzover said this week as he sat in his car at an intersection three kilometers from the settlement. Some 30 people had gathered there to protest the temporary closure of Yeshivat Od Yosef Hai inside Nablus.

Deafening would have been an apt description of the silence of this low-key demonstration by some of the most assertive figures in the nationalist-religious camp. Even though the issue was highly charged — access to a holy place — there was not a placard visible, just men studying Torah in a makeshift suva or chatting idly.

The loudest silence of all was in the calmness projected by Katzover himself. It was not quite the calm of someone reconciled to retreat and certainly not to surrender — it may indeed have been the calculated calm of a determined man biding his time, but Katzover appeared to be biding to circumstance.

In the 1970s, when Gush Emunim began defiantly dancing over the hills of Judea and Samaria, forcing governments to bow to its demands for settlements, Katzover had been among its most prominent figures. Armed with certainties that rendered trivial the realities of the day that argued against settlements, he was a natural leader.

The settlers' willpower proved stronger than the government's. In 1980, after the settlers' success in creating the first settlement in Samaria in the hills below Nablus, the Katzovers and about 15 other families pushed further inland to establish Eilon Moreh on a hill beyond Nablus. It would be the furthest settlement from the Green Line — apart from those in the peaceful lower Jordan Valley — and it would directly confront the largest and most volatile Arab city in the territories.

Today Eilon Moreh has more than 1,000 residents. Katzover was chosen to head the Samaria Regional Council, which came to embrace 32 settlements. Two years ago he stepped down to become a member of the Judea and Samaria Council.

When the intifada exploded, exposing the vulnerability of the settlements, particularly his own, Katzover had seemed to a visiting journalist to be shaken, but he was nevertheless defiant and spoke with certainty of victory.

This week, he made no attempt to make light of the realities of the day — neither the Oslo agreements nor Yitzhak Rabin's assassination. His tone sounded more thoughtful than defiant.

"The mood is tense and people are worried and less optimistic but no one is speaking of leaving," he said.

He had been sitting in a car examining a map just distributed by the Samaria Regional Council showing the division of the area under the Oslo accords into areas A, B and C. The explanation of the Oslo terms that accompanies the map was straightforward and there was no talk of defying Arab policemen, whom the accords permit to stop Israelis in Arab urban areas for identity checks.

And there was no talk of shooting Arab policemen who try to stop them, a threat voiced by settler leaders in the past. Nor did Katzover make such a threat now.

How will the settlers react if there is an order to evacuate Eilon Moreh at the end of the final-status talks?

"People aren't dealing with that question," he said. "Whether because of psychological reasons they don't want to deal with it or whether the strong motivation that brought them here



Katzover: The peace process would explode if I or Yossi Sarid were prime minister. (Sami Uziel)

doesn't make it a question for them, I don't know. Probably both. What concerns people at present are day-to-day things, particularly the security situation on the roads. They're asking each other 'What do we do if a Palestinian policeman tries to stop us? What if we're fired on?'

Would there be violent resistance to an evacuation order? "Certainly there would be resistance. It would be violent to a certain extent. There would be action," he repeated.

"But without weapons," he continued. "We haven't made any plans and we don't talk about it among ourselves. I can say that the principle I assume is accepted by most settlers is not to get close to a civil war or to a taking up of weapons. There may be 10 percent, maybe 20, that would consider taking up weapons. The figure depends on how events develop."

Katzover said he finds it hard to envision an evacuation order. "I can't see any government in Israel that is capable of expelling 50,000 or 100,000 Jews," he said. "If they are thinking of a smaller number, of evacuating only a limited number of settlements, I don't see Arafat agreeing to that."

What does he expect to see in four years at the conclusion of the final-status talks? "Not what I would like to see," he said. "It is inevitable, Katzover said, that somewhere down the line the entire peace process with the Palestinians will explode."

"It would explode if I were prime minister and it would explode if Yossi Sarid were prime minister," he said, choosing a figure at the opposite end of the political spectrum. "I would give the Palestinians much less than the present government, if I give them anything at all, and this would lead to a confrontation."

"Sarid would give them much more but at a certain point he too would draw the line and this too would lead to an explosion. But by that time the Palestinians would be much stronger and have much more international recognition. As far as I'm concerned, the sooner the explosion, the better."

After the explosion, there would be a new order in Judea and Samaria, "either without the Arabs," an allusion to their transfer across the Jordan, "or with the Arabs but with clear Israeli sovereignty."

There was also a third possibility, Katzover said, that amounted only to "a small explosion." This would be the Likud winning next year's elections and undertaking to strengthen existing settlements until their population reaches 500,000, effectively negating the possibility of a Palestinian state.

"From this point, the Arabs would have two choices: either to reconcile themselves to this reality and accept autonomy [under Israeli sovereignty] or to renew their struggle," he said. "If they choose the latter, we would have to deal with them as we deal with enemies."

The meaning of the words is firm but the tone of the voice seems somewhat less edged than one expects from Katzover.

The killing of Rabin, he admitted, was a severe blow even though Rabin had been a long-time adversary.

"Most of the public here took it very hard," he said. "I did too. My son went to his funeral with my blessings. I didn't love Rabin. I admired him in a certain way. I had many meetings with him. His murder was a crime. First of all, a Jew killing a Jew. Then the killing of a prime minister. This is the way to dismantle a nation. The murderer did great damage to the nationalist camp."

"So from every point of view, the moral and the political, we were furious at the person who did it. Much of our political activity

has stopped. It's beginning to resume a bit now, but the tone is more moderate. I hope it stays that way."

Katzover made a point of distancing himself from the Kahanists.

"Ninety-five percent of us are not Kahanists. Our spiritual center is the Mercaz Harav Yeshiva [in Jerusalem] where we were educated on the idea of our being one people, statehood, and lending our shoulder to the state. The basis of Kahanism is the opposite. People who disagree with them aren't Jews."

In the aftermath of the Rabin killing, he said, even some Kahanists have adopted a lower profile — not out of remorse but because of the anger they sense from the right-wing population.

What of the new theme being sounded by some nationalist rabbis to the effect that the road to Messianic redemption may zigzag and that the post-Oslo, post-assassination realities may require a tactical retreat?

Katzover shook his head. Only a small percentage of the religious-nationalist public, admittedly including much of the elite, deals with the question of redemption and its connection to settlement, he said.

"I studied three or four months in Mercaz Harav, but I'm not an address for this," he said. "I'm personally built to look at things more rationally. If we sink roots in the land, as we did in the Galilee and Negev, that influences the borders of the country. Where we leave an Arab population without a Jewish presence, there will be problems."

From the heights of Eilon Moreh, Nablus lodged below in a beautiful valley between two mountains still looks like it must have looked to the Israelites three millennia ago: almost within reach. The jarring sirens this month may be causing some settlers, at least, to reassess the distance to that promised land.

## The town without a future

With last week's closure of Ofakim's largest factory, Ouman Mills, residents are gloomier than ever, Jennifer Friedlin reports



Ofakim's center lined with a handful of stores: The town's unemployment rate stood at 13% until the closure of Ouman, when it jumped to 20%. (Hanan Grinberg/Israel Sun)

THE irony is all in its name. Ofakim, or horizons, is a development town that never developed.

Founded in 1955, Ofakim, like all development towns, was planned to accommodate new immigrants hoping to build a life and future in Israel. In fits and starts, small textile and paper factories moved into the Negev town located outside of Beersheba. But now, just as they moved in, the factories are moving out and the people of Ofakim are calling their town a place without a future.

Off the main two-lane thoroughfare, which is lined with a handful of stores, and down a street bordered by litter-strewn fields, sits Ofakim's largest factory, Ouman Knitting Mills, which was shut down last Friday, and the Adgar textile factory, which has been drastically cutting the number of its employees.

Since Sunday, striking Adgar employees have kept a small fire burning, symbolizing the rage caused by continuous layoffs. The factory, which once employed 120 people, now has only 20 workers, all of whom are convinced that their dismissal and the plant's closure are imminent.

The management could not be reached for comment. Regardless of what happens to Adgar, there are other reasons fueling residents' persistent fear and anger. One is the chronically high unemployment rate. While the national rate is 7 percent, Ofakim, a town of 22,000, had an unemployment rate of 13.4%.

The closure of Ouman, which had 230 employees, will raise the rate to 20%.

Yahava Yehoshua, an Ofakim resident of 28 years and a self-employed truck driver who delivers goods for local factories, came to Adgar on Wednesday to show his support for the striking workers as they congregated outside the factory. Although his manner and speech are gentle, Yehoshua, a first-generation Israeli from Iraq, says he feels desperate.

"The people of Ofakim are abandoned. No one has sympathy for us, even though we gave our blood for this country," said Yehoshua, 58. "We give everything to this country, just like the people in Tel Aviv, and we are put on the side. We don't interest anyone."

ALTHOUGH ONLY 20 minutes from Beersheba, the region's in-

frastructure enhances the alienation Ofakim's residents feel. Despite Ben-Gurion's dream of linking the Negev to the rest of Israel, many of the development towns remain on the outskirts with few connections to the country's main arteries and cities.

There is no rail system in the Negev, forcing people to rely on buses that run infrequently between Beersheba and the country's technological and political capitals. Poorly planned local bus schedules make travel difficult and costly.

If the distance and lack of convenient transportation are not enough to make Ofakim residents feel detached and alienated, the way politicians and employers treat them is. After working a regular day last Thursday, workers were shocked to arrive on Friday at the 25-year-old Ouman factory to find the gate chained shut and large red X's painted on the windows.

Although a reduced number of orders for raw materials indicated looming trouble, Yael Dahan, a purchaser for the company, said the suddenness of the closure shocked her.

"I would have expected the management to tell us of the difficulties they were having and the closure," said Dahan, 28, noting that many of the company employees have worked at the factory for more than a decade. "Instead all we got was a smack in the face."

Hanan Grinberg, Polgar's human resources manager, said that the closure was not sudden.

"All the employees knew about the difficulties," he said, adding that for the past few weeks he had met with the employees and explained the situation clearly. "They knew that one of the possibilities would be closing the factory."

He said Polgar decided to close the factory Thursday night and acted quickly so that the new information would immediately af-

fect their standing on the stock exchange.

Still, employees say the closure is surprising since at the beginning of 1995 the government gave the company a \$1.5 million grant in return for a promise that the company, a subsidiary of Polgar, would continue operating for the next seven years. Employees say that instead of investing the money in resuscitating the company, the management invested it in real estate. Grinberg denied this.

Byal Fabien, spokesman for the Ministry of Industry and Trade, said that the government expects that the grant will be repaid completely, adding that the company fully agreed.

"If we need to, we will return the money to the government," Grinberg said.

Fabien said Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish has ordered an investigation into why the factory closed and the results are expected within a month.

"We shall check and see what happens. It looks a bit peculiar, but it could be a coincidence," Fabien said.

He said that approximately half of the grant had been approved several years ago. The other half was given after Ouman requested assistance in buying new machinery to produce better-quality cloth in which companies abroad had shown interest.

"Our people thought the grant would allow the factory to buy the new machines and go ahead and export more," Fabien said, adding that he does not know if Ouman actually bought the new equipment.

Grinberg said that Ouman bought the new machinery, but even with it the factory still could not compete due to the country's free-trade policy regarding textiles, the cost of raw materials, the exchange rate, and a low demand. He pointed out that many textile factories around the globe are closing for the same reason and that Polgar had made every

effort to keep the factory open.

EMPLOYEES SAY the shut-downs would not be so bad if other companies had opened new factories in Ofakim. While government incentives have injected life into other Negev towns, Ofakim has not received any new business yet.

Fabien said the closure of Ouman bit hard because the government was in the middle of efforts to improve the situation in Ofakim but the results had not yet materialized. Now, he said, of course, the government will speed up these efforts.

Plans are in the works to "bring more factories to Ofakim" and the ministry is searching for investors and people willing to open new businesses there, he said.

"A few businesses can give the city the push it needs," Fabien said.

"We hope that ECI telecom will build a new factory there," he added.

They have been negotiating with ECI, a successful telecommunications company from Petah Tikva, about opening up a factory in Ofakim for the past 10 months.

"Now we will do it faster," Fabien promised. "We will give it higher priority."

The proposed factory would provide 250 jobs in the first year and 500 by the second, he said.

In response to the shutdown, Polgar offered to relocate workers to its factories in Kiryat Gat and Beersheba; however, many of the workers say such a solution is financially impossible.

The textile industry, one of the lowest-paid industries nationally, offers minimum wages. After 20 years' tenure, workers at Ouman and Adgar say they are not likely to earn more than NIS 2,000 per month. In addition, 80% of Ouman's employees are women, many with small children. The working mothers say they cannot

(Continued on Page 11)

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# Tolerance in the Mideast? Don't mention it

HOW tolerant should one be of an academic institution that advertises a conference titled "Is Tolerance Possible in the Middle East?" and then proceeds to ignore that topic entirely, or at best only touch on it in passing. This is exactly what the Jerusalem Spinoza Institute did last week.

In three days of sessions at the Jerusalem Khan Theater, the conference provided some fascinating lectures and some mediocre ones, as is normal at such events. But even the best speakers barely addressed the ostensible topic of the conference. At its worst, the conference was a mobilized "politically correct" academic forum for one-sided advocacy of the Palestinian cause, including proposals for dividing Jerusalem, which went unchallenged.

The hints of political correctness were reinforced when, after the assassination of prime minister Rabin, the conference organizers added a topical session on events in Israel entitled "Political Intolerance in Israel," as opposed to the term "tolerance," which was used in connection with the rabidly intolerant Middle Eastern nations and religions surrounding Israel.

The official topic is a fascinating one; certainly in a Middle East that is rife with religious fundamentalisms - especially Moslem and Jewish - that are at a particularly intolerant stage and with relatively young conflicting

nationalisms that are at similarly nasty stages in their development.

Must the Middle East continue to be so? What could be done, if anything, to make its conflicting groups more tolerant of each other? And, more specifically, is there hope for greater tolerance between the Israelis and the Palestinians, who are so territorially intermingled in this tiny country, as a basis for a tolerably peaceful coexistence between them? Should tolerance be extended to groups that are themselves noted for their own intolerance? Barely a word was uttered on these issues.

There were some interesting presentations: the better ones concentrated on issues of minority rights in ethnically and religiously mixed societies.

Prof. Yoram Dinstein, president of Tel Aviv University and an expert in international law on minority rights, noted that mere tolerance was a passive attribute and was less of a challenge and less admirable than the ability to maintain dialogue and foster cooperation between different groups.

He pointed out that under international law today, the melting-pot approach, by which members of minority cultures or immigrant groups were expected to assimilate into the homogeneous majority cultures, was outlawed.

International law extends legal protections to ethnic, religious

**The Spinoza Institute's conference on tolerance addressed many topics, but tolerance was barely mentioned. Yosef Goell comments**

and linguistic minorities, but not to others. The protected minority categories are accorded the right, and the state-provided means, to preserve and propagate themselves.

This raises problems when it comes to many religious groups, which are often profoundly intolerant themselves. Historically, Dinstein noted, religions have been responsible for the most horrific examples of murder. When it came to mere tolerance, organized religions often chose to ignore distinctly different religions but were intensely intolerant of deviant members within their own ranks.

He cited the opposition of all religions to the right of their members to opt out of the religion, despite the assumption that freedom of religion should include the right to freely choose one's religious affiliation. A recent example is Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau, who returned ecstatic from a meeting with the Pope in Rome, but went to great lengths to prevent a conference at Tel Aviv University which featured the Bishop of Paris, Cardinal Lustiger. The cardinal had "had the

temerity" to convert from Judaism to Catholicism after having been saved as a young boy during the Holocaust by finding refuge in a Catholic monastery.

Prof. Bhikku Parekh, formerly of India and a professor of philosophy at Hull University in England, delivered one of the more thoughtful papers on the issue of minority rights. He suggested that the entire concept of minorities, a peculiar product of the modern nation-state, should be reconsidered.

Much of the problem in modern liberal democratic societies derived from the clash between the liberal concept of personal equality and personal rights and the collective nature of minority rights, where such rights were conferred on entire communities whose institutions served as mediators for the delivery of those rights to their individual members, he said.

Demands for the assimilation of minorities were misguided because such assimilation was in effect impossible, he said. Minority rights must include: the right of access to one's cultural heritage; guaranteeing multicultural curricula in state-funded schools; the

right to one's own separate language; the right to respect for one's separate culture and for cultural differences; the right to official recognition for minority cultures in the symbols of the state and recognition of minority cultural practices, "on condition that they don't offend the majority too deeply" (this was challenged by the audience with questions as to whether protection should also be extended to minority cultures which espoused the abuse of women and subjected them to extreme discrimination).

Parekh responded by noting that minority rights were never absolute. Since minority cultures were neither static nor homogeneously shared, he said, adherence to those cultures and their practices should never be imposed on unwilling members.

Many of the other speakers spoke upliftingly of the ideal situations they would like to see rather than the depressing realities of intolerance. This, Prof. Manuel Hassassian of Bethlehem University began to speak glowingly of tolerance and democracy among the Palestinians in the wake of the intifada.

He then interrupted himself and said "but much of this is mere rhetoric" and went on to note that a good part of the problem stemmed from the fact that in Islam, democracy was often seen as an alien, imperialist idea. Arab states were responsible for impoverishing civil society and were marked by intolerance. Many Western-educated Arab intellectuals who were initially committed to concepts of tolerance were often co-opted by the Arab establishments; "the refuseniks" among them often opted to emigrate.

Turning to current political issues, Hassassian said that as part of the agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority for ongoing implementation of the Israeli withdrawal from the territories, he could envision Israeli settlers remaining as Israeli citizens in a Palestinian West Bank, just as there were Palestinians in Israel. He said he believed, however, that not all the settlers would choose to stay in such a capacity.

"We understand that dismantling of the settlements is out of the question," he added.

The problem, he said, was not so much with the individual settlements as with the settlement blocs, "such as Ariel and Gush Katif," which would paralyze Palestinian economic development.

Prof. Moshe Greenberg of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem spoke of the tolerant attitude of

classical Judaism to the Gentile. He went on to intimate that that was not the norm today when he said that his essay "was a call on the faith community for a revision of its traditional attitudes in this regard."

Hatred of the Gentile is an aberration in Judaism, he said, and expressed the hope that it would disappear once the true meaning of the concept of the Chosen People became clear.

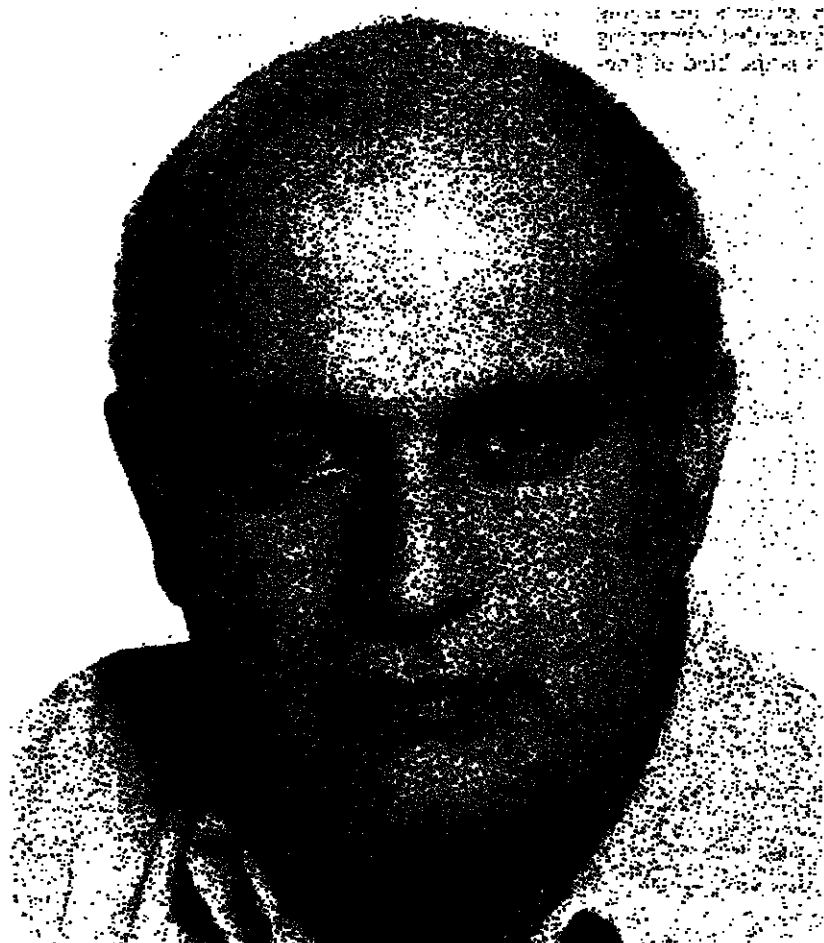
Prof. Jeanine Chantreau of the University of Paris spoke similarly of the capacity of Catholicism for tolerance, ignoring the millennium and a half of bloody church history.

Sheikh Rajai Abdu of Jericho, who was scheduled to speak on tolerance in Islam, failed to appear.

Newly appointed Minister without Portfolio Rabbi Yehuda Amital said that any attempt to link halachic Jewish law with the political sphere was a "sure formula for intolerance." He asserted that there was no contradiction between the Halacha and democracy, as many of his fellow haredi and Zionist rabbinical colleagues insist. He noted wryly that prior to the 1967 Six Day War, no one had ever made that assertion.

Perhaps the reason that the conference failed to come to grips with the problem subsumed under its title "Is Tolerance Possible in the Middle East" was that the obvious answer was depressingly negative.

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We have made the Golan bloom. This Zionist endeavour must not be terminated. Let us extend the hand of peace to the Syrians, while reaching a compromise that will retain Israel's vital interests. Withdrawal to the shoreline of the sea of Galilee represents a surrender to dictates, not compromise.

The late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on 10.6.92: "It is inconceivable that even in peacetime we should leave the Golan. Anyone proposing to leave the Golan is abandoning Israel's security."

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## Professor debunks assassination myths

ONE of the interesting papers at the conference, despite the fact that it had no direct connection to the topic of tolerance, was presented by Dr. Nahman Ben-Yehuda of the Hebrew University on "Political Assassination Among Jews."

Citing from the findings of a study he had conducted on political assassinations by Jews in this country between 1887 and 1988, Ben-Yehuda said that he had found 87 clearly identified cases of such attempts during that 100-year period. One of the most interesting patterns of that sample, which held true for the assassination of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, he said, was that over 90 percent of the attempts had been perpetrated by assassins connected to or motivated by groups while only 6 percent had been carried out by loners.

Over 60 percent of the intended victims of Jewish assassins had been other Jews, belying the myth that "we Jews don't do such things to each other." Another feature of these attempted assassinations was that in over 80 percent of the cases innocent bystanders had not been hurt, attesting to a high level of care and planning. Most of the attempts had occurred in the tempestuous period between 1939 and 1948, with a sharp drop in the subsequent 40 years.

Although the myth that Jews don't do such things was simply untrue, the incidence of political assassinations by Jews in this country was significantly lower than among peoples involved in similar stages of fighting for their national independence. The Palestinians had killed 770 fellow Palestinians during the seven years of the intifada; the figures for the FLN uprising in Algeria in the 1950s and early 1960s were much higher; and the Mau Mau terrorists of the Kikuyu tribe in Kenya had assassinated over 11,500 fellow Kikuyus in the fight to rid their country of British colonialism. Y.G.

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Shimon Peres is surrounded by guests in traditional garb at the Sheraton Plaza's benefit for Moroccan Jewry. (David Golan)

## They all lined up to kiss the judge

GRAPEVINE  
GREER FAY CASHMAN

**EMBRACING justice.** Newly installed Supreme Court Justice Dorit Beinisch already has a fine reputation for upholding the law. Now she might also become a candidate for *The Guinness Book of Records* as the world's most frequently kissed judge.

She has received congratulatory kisses from most of her colleagues in the judiciary, most of the members of the Knesset Law Committee, Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, Justice Minister David Libai, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak and President Ezer Weizman.

She also received a more musical kiss from the conductor-pianist and her former classmate Daniel Barenboim, who attended her swearing-in ceremony at Beit Hanassi.

ALTHOUGH HE started writing the book long before the General Security Service was subjected to the close media scrutiny of the past two months, lawyer and Labor Party activist Yehiel Gutzman could not have picked a better time for its release.

*Yediot Ahronot's* publishing company has given it the English title of *A Storm in the GSS* but Gutzman would prefer to call it "Shittem" in Hebrew. "The Shittem" is the Red House in Beit Zayit, attended by a large representation of the country's past and present security and intelligence community including Chaim Herzog, Ya'acov Peri, Shimon Hillel, Rafi Peled, Elyahu Ben-Eliassar, Emdan Barak, Rehavam Ze'evi and many others. Avi Pessier, Israel's ambassador to France, and Gad Ya'acobi, Israel's ambassador to the UN, who are both on home leave, also attended.

The book deals, inter alia, with the killing by the GSS of two Arab hijackers. The pair were part of a group of four who in 1984 took control of a bus traveling from Tel Aviv to Ashdod. Herzog, who in his capacity as president of the state pardoned the head of the GSS and other GSS officers involved, said that he had no regrets.

Peri, while conceding that it was important to exercise some control over the GSS, was critical of the extent to which the media have abused their freedom of expression by virtually bursting in on the secret service. Gutzman spent most of the night autographing books for eager readers.

THE EIGHTH-NIGHT-of-Hanukkah wedding at Jerusalem's Renaissance Hotel of Sussan Nissim, daughter of Likud MK Moshe Nissim and his wife Ruth, to lawyer Jay Kupietzky, son of Moshe and Arlene Kupietzky of Los Angeles, looked like a dress rehearsal for the Likud primaries, even though Nissim this week announced he was retiring from the Knesset at the next elections.

Party chairman Binyamin Netanyahu was there along with former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and many other Likud MKs such as Gideon Palti, Dan Meridor and Benny Begin.

Also on hand were President Weizman and numerous representatives of the legal and banking fraternities with whom Nissim developed close ties when serving as justice minister and finance minister.

With one family wedding out of the way, the Nissims are now gearing up for the next one - of son Ariel - which is due to take place some time before Pessah.

PRIME MINISTER Shimon Peres donated a dish which he had received from the Prince of Liechtenstein; Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet donated an ornate mezuza case; and Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer a hanukkia. These and other gifts were auctioned off at a gala benefit last Saturday night in aid of the Jerusalem-based World Center for North African Jewry.

The banquet at the Sheraton Plaza Hotel was reminiscent of Moroccan home cooking, and many of the guests added color to the event by coming attired in traditional North African garb.

Shetreet spent much of the evening working the floor to garner support in Labor's upcoming primaries. Peres, who was in an excellent mood, commented that peace negotiations were moving more rapidly and more intensely than anyone would believe possible.

"I THINK the airlines are going to pay me to stay home," said Sarah Raab who, 25 years after being hijacked on a TWA plane, found herself stranded at Ben-Gurion Airport. Raab came in from New York last Friday on an El Al flight which was due at 1:35 p.m. But the plane was late in taking off and didn't land till 4:07, which was less than half an hour before the onset of Shabbat.

Some of the passengers were taken to the nearby Avia Hotel, but others, including Raab, who missed the bus, stayed overnight at the airport where El Al hosted them in the King David lounge. When informed in New York that there would be a long delay in take-off, Raab wanted to get off the plane, but because her luggage was already aboard, security would not allow her to disembark.

Tower Air, which had several Habad passengers on its plane, was also late in landing. The men walked from the airport to Kfar Habad, but the distance was too great for the women, who opted to stay in the airport.

"El Al looked after them too," said Raab. "They were wonderful." Being stranded over Shabbat in Lod was a much more pleasurable experience, she observed, than spending Shabbat in Jordan as the reluctant guest of Palestinian terrorists.

All in all, the Bethlehem bypass is not a bad way to go, Jay Bailey writes from behind the wheel

TWO thousand shekels out the window. That's how much I had to shell out to install protective windows in my car, windows I never got a chance to test out as Dehshah's stone throwers seemed to have been otherwise occupied as I drove through Bethlehem from my home in to work for the past five months. As a matter of fact, I enjoyed the adventure.

It was a kind of safari. I rolled up my windows, surveyed the terrain as I drove through, and hoped to avoid direct contact with all indigenous life-forms.

But that's all over now. It's been over a week since I first guided my trusty Lancer along the Gush Etzion-Jerusalem road, that surgically fashioned double-bypass in Israel's heartland. I wanted so much to hate it and maintain my predictable settler persona: skeptical, critical, suspicious. But try as I might, I still can't bring myself to condemn anybody.

The following observations - most of which are, in fact, positive - are made with one caveat: I'm talking about the road as it is today. The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel reportedly believes that - aside from incomplete rails and retaining walls, and massive, irreversible ecological damage - the road is built on loose debris that will skid magnificently downhill in the first rockslide or heavy rain. The government doesn't agree. I just hope it doesn't happen on my shift.

The most dramatic improvement is that the view is incredible. I still marvel as I drive by miles and miles of rocky, terraced hills, cliffs and valleys, dotted with ancient olive trees and crumbling stone houses. Then, near Jerusalem, there's some kind of lagoon in the making. Dozens of giant white birds frolic by a gentle pool as the water cascades from the side of the mountain. Actually it sort of gushes out of a giant pipe. My wife thinks it's a sewer. Don't tell the birds.

Unless you stop to take in the above-mentioned scenery, the entire route takes only 20 minutes, which takes the pioneer ro-

(Continued from Page 9)

ad to spend more time away from home to travel to a hard-to-reach factory.

"We have workers from all over the country," Grinberg countered. "People that want to work can find work far away from their home. We offered them transportation."

He added that it would only take 30 to 40 minutes for the workers to travel to the other factories.

To bring attention to their plight, more than 150 Ouman employees headed for the Knesset on Wednesday. Carrying banners highlighting Ofakim's unemployment rate and chanting "Shimon Peres, we're on the map," the employees hoped to gain the government's attention.

When they arrived at the Knesset gate, they were surprised to find that government officials would not be inviting them in for a forum.

Instead, the employees peered at the Knesset through a steel gate. Several members of the opposition parties came outside to offer their support.

However, the demonstrators were not convinced by the politicians' promises to work against



It's never too late to add finishing touches to a road that's already open - or to block off a whole lane doing it. (Jay Bailey)

mance out of it all. If I can get to the Jerusalem Mall, where the road starts, for instant Double-Whopper-Combo-Meal gratification in less than a half hour, I might as well be living in Tel Aviv.

It's just plain easier. The new road is uninterrupted by side streets or intersections, allowing you to relax as you drive. And without the stop-and-go, I'm getting 400 kilometers to the tank instead of 350, a saving which, sadly, is simultaneously eliminated as the 15-km. route is about 6 km. longer than the Bethlehem road.

ALL THIS sounds pretty good. There are, however, a couple of facts that prevent me from being engulfed by bliss:

Someone seemed to have forgotten one of the central concepts here. A bypass road is supposed to avoid the Arab town, not send us barreling right through Ahmed's backyard.

To be fair, the town is Beit Jala, a relatively quiet place where Christians comprise three-quarters of the 8,500 residents. There are some impressive homes facing the road, and, according to a colleague who has lived there for 12 years, the population is upscale, educated and nonviolent.

periphery, both first and second generation residents are aware of Ofakim's historical reality.

Cami Ashof, 51, said she needs the money she earned as a cleaning lady for Ouman to support her husband and 10 children.

"Our life is difficult," Ashof said. "If I lose my job, where will I go? What's there for an older woman like me to do?"

But young women who were born and raised in Ofakim, also wonder about their future. At 19, Dikla Genish has seen most of her childhood friends move away.

Without a movie theater, restaurants or clubs, life in Ofakim revolves solely around work, home and the market that comes to town once a week.

Standing on an Ofakim street corner, clutching at a friend's arm, Genish speaks of her life's emptiness.

"Most of my friends left and many of the young people who stay behind use drugs," said Genish. "I go to Beersheba if I want to go out and I think about moving away. Here there's nothing, really nothing, to do."

Heidi Gleit contributed to this article.

The 6-km. middle section of the road in Beit Jala and on the outskirts of El Hader was not heavily used before, as it is more convenient for Palestinians to travel to Jerusalem through Bethlehem.

While there were stonings on the day the road opened, it has been quiet ever since. We needn't fear the locals; it's their cousins visiting from Gaza I'm worried about.

When I heard they were pouring the final asphalt stretch just hours before the road was scheduled to open, I was afraid that heavy vehicles would dig permanent grooves into the virgin surface. They didn't. Instead, we have scores of crumbly potholes in which you could park your car should the need arise. It seems the road crews are dealing with them; construction has further reduced the road to a single lane with police officers managing traffic. I'd guess that eliminating gaping holes is the kind of fine-tuning usually done before opening a new road, a phase we seem to have skipped. My shock absorbers never bargained on this.

The temporary section that bypasses the bridge is a narrow, two-lane path. Were there a serious road hazard, access would be cut until the debris was cleared. And I can imagine trying to call a

tow truck: "Hello, I have some engine trouble. Location? Gush Etzion Road right near El Hader... Hello? Hello?"

To heighten the challenge, it's way too dark at night. High beams click on and off as cars pass each other, as we try to avoid: a) each other; b) the shoulder/cliff; c) the potholes; d) roadkill; e) potential roadkill. Not all the reflective "cats' eyes" are imbedded in the asphalt. With no room to swerve, I've thus far narrowly missed a cat and some larger, faster feline, as well as two dogs. And it's only been a week.

Last, I hope someone is working on the security issue. Minor detail. Currently there are a couple of soldiers thoughtfully guiding you away from the heart of Beit Jala, and as you leave "hostile territory" and approach Jerusalem, there is one of those drive-through border checkpoints where slowing is optional. I've even given up the good-natured

wave I had perfected at the Bethlehem checkpoint.

Now that the mystery of this part of the road is no more, we look forward to seeing The Bridge. Two tunnels have been completed for the permanent road, but it will be summer before the span that connects them is ready. It's supposed to be the biggest ever built here.

While this mark of distinction does send the appropriate chills up my spine, I wonder if soldiers will be positioned on either end of the bridge.

Though I'm not old enough to remember World War II or the days of the Mandate, I have seen enough James Coburn movies and CNN Gulf war reports to know that a massive, heavily used bridge might as well have a banner hanging from it (check, it might as well be in Arabic): "Target: Place bomb here."

I'm not too worried, though. There's always the road through Bethlehem.

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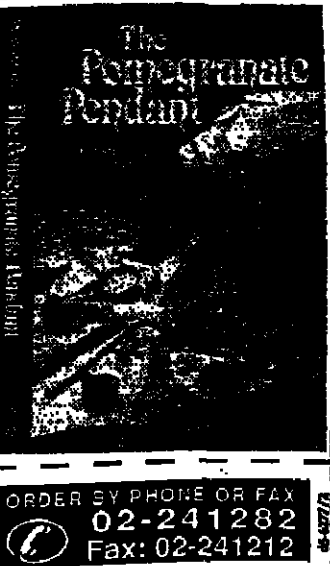
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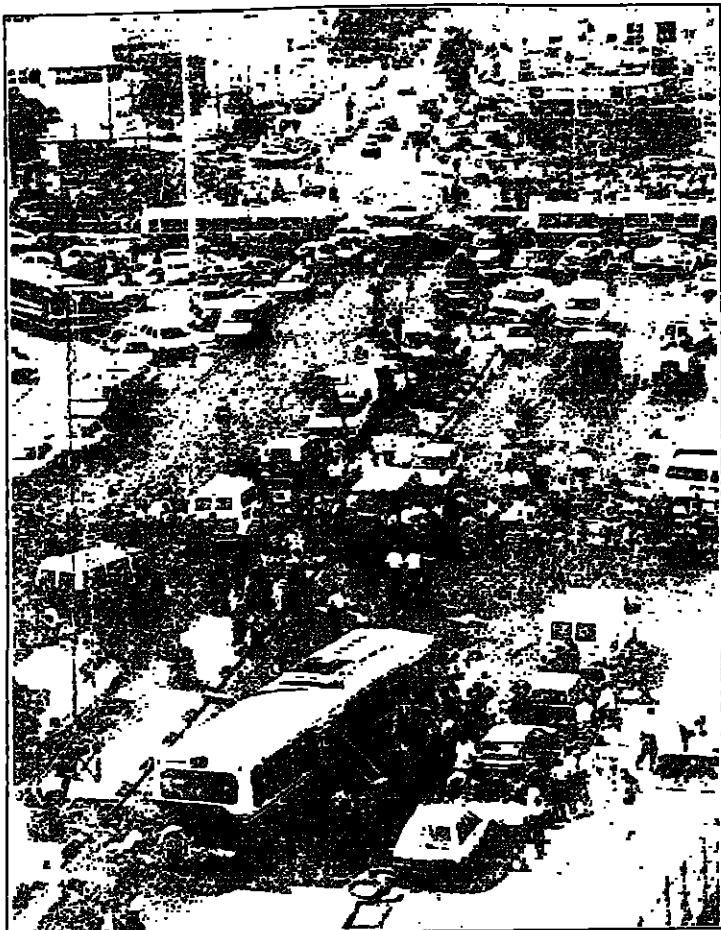
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# 1995: A look at Israel



Three major bus bombings in 1995 cast a cloud of despair over the nation. At Beit Lid, Ramat Gan (left) and Ramot Eshkol the scenes of horror, grief and frustration were played out all over again. Above, a weeping soldier holds a snapshot of Maya Kopstein at her funeral following the Beit Lid massacre. (Ilan Osendryver, Isaac Harari)

The Likud stages a demonstration against the Oslo 2 agreement in Jerusalem's Zion Square on October 5. (Brian Hendler)



His last song: An upbeat Yitzhak Rabin sings 'A Song for Peace' at the pro-government rally on November 4. (Alon Ron)



Those horrible seconds: Three shots ring out and Rabin is pushed into his car. (CBS via AP)



Shalom Haver: King Hussein, Queen Noor and Bill Clinton grieve at the funeral. (Efraim Kibitok)



Why? How we see ourselves has changed forever. (Jerolimski)



The assassin: Yigal Amir. (Hanoeh Gritzsky)



Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres formed a more intense working relationship as the year's events continually threatened the implementation of the Oslo accords. (AP)



A Palestinian boy bids farewell to a border policeman at Manger Square moments before the IDF pulled out of Bethlehem. The withdrawal was followed by a redeployment from Ramallah, which completed a seven-week process in which the IDF also left Jenin, Nablus, Tulkarm, and Kalkilya. (Brian Hendler)



# ... and the world



An expressway near Kobe, Japan, buckled and crashed to the ground in the January 17 earthquake that killed more than 5,000 people and left more than 310,000 homeless. (AP)



Two boys, their mouths covered in a misguided effort to protect themselves from the Ebola virus, wait outside a Zaire hospital for the body of a relative who was among 232 killed in the January-to-May viral outbreak. (AP)



Tibetan women demonstrate in Huairou, China, against Chinese oppression in their country, during the UN-sponsored decennial World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, 50 kilometers south. The conference and a parallel forum in Huairou of nongovernmental organizations drew a total of 35,000 delegates from around the world in early September. The conferences were held under the cloud of China's record on human rights. (AP)



Two youths, one carrying his dog, sprint across a central Sarajevo intersection to avoid sniper fire in April. Scenes like this were made a thing of the past when Bosnians, Croats and Serbs signed a treaty in Paris on December 14 to end 3½ years of war in Bosnia. (AP)



The Beatles were the biggest moneymakers in entertainment this year - 25 years after they broke up and 15 years after the death of John Lennon (lower right) - with CD and TV retrospectives, and a new single by the surviving members using Lennon's home recording of a song he wrote. (AP)



A Los Angeles jury took three hours on October 2 to reach a verdict in the longest US criminal trial ever, acquitting a former football star O.J. Simpson of murdering his wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. (AP)



A fire fighter carries a child injured in the April 19 bomb blast at a US federal office building in Oklahoma City. It was the worst terrorist attack ever in the US, killing 168, including 19 children at an in-house creche. (AP)



Some of the 5,500 victims of a March 20 attack on Tokyo's subway system await treatment for inhalation of the toxic gas sarin, which killed 12 and hospitalized 700. Leaders of the doomsday Supreme Truth Sect were charged. (Below) Tahitian protesters beat a French policeman a day after France conducted a nuclear test blast on September 5 in the South Pacific. France attracted worldwide criticism for this, the first of eight such tests ordered by President Jacques Chirac. (AP)





# Religion as a tool, the media as a circus

CAPITAL TALK

TEDDY KOLLEK with Amos Kollek

SOME people hoped that some good would come of the horrible event of Yitzhak Rabin's murder. But so far I have witnessed mostly the cheapening of religion and the media.

At the inception of the state, religious leaders had no problem with a divided Jerusalem. As I recall, it was not until 1967 that the leaders of Orthodox Jewry made an issue of the fact that the holy places were under Arab rule. This was accepted by the rabbis. They did not order their flock to go to war and conquer the Western Wall and Rachel's Tomb.

The Jewish state was created not by prayers in the Diaspora, Halacha studies or the reading of Psalms, but by the actions of secular Jews. The fighting was done by the Hagana, the IZL, Lehi and later the IDF. In the years that followed, it was mostly non-Orthodox youngsters who defended Israel with their lives.

According to tradition, internal strife was the primary cause for the destruction of earlier Jewish states. In this context, a heavy responsibility now falls on religious extremists for the tension we read about and watch on TV.

The conflict between them and "secular" Israelis is not a moral one, nor in my opinion even a religious one. The arguments are mostly about marginal issues of little consequence: Should a woman (Barbra Streisand) be allowed to sing at a memorial for Yitzhak Rabin in New York? Can the building of the Betlehem bypass be allowed to continue a few hours into the Sabbath to meet its deadline?

The recent convention of Reform Jews reached a few decisions that were severely criticized in the Orthodox community. I have no particular affinity with the reformists, but certainly their resolutions were much less harmful than the instructions of some rabbis to IDF soldiers to disobey their commanders.

Giving back the Golan, or even Betlehem, is not a religious issue but a political and military one. Still,

the rabbis intervene. Immediately after the Six Day War, Ben-Gurion said we should give back all the conquered territories immediately, except for Jerusalem, or there would be no peace. I was among those who wholeheartedly accepted Ben-Gurion's view.

Sadly Ben-Gurion's advice was not taken. It could have saved us 30 years of anguish and a lot of bloodshed. The result will still be the same. The Arab lands will go back to the Arabs, or there will be more wars.

NOW everything seems to be going to extremes. Archeological digs are prohibited wherever there once may have been some ancient cemetery. Yet 100 years ago, Mea She'arim and other religious neighborhoods were built over graveyards.

I am not against religion. On the contrary, I have come to the conclusion that religion and tradition must be strengthened and cultivated. They are our surest and most effective means of education, of instilling good values and a unifying moral backbone in our children. Even kibbutz schools have come to this conclusion.

We Jews, outcast and persecuted for many generations, should neither forget nor deny our heritage. But this does not mean that religious leaders should have the right to interfere in matters of state, defense or law. Religion should not be reduced to a political tool, and it cannot overrule democracy.

I am appalled by the post-assassination media circus. The repeated reveling in unnecessary details and the endless playing and replaying of the murder video are milking the tragedy for every drop of cheap sensationalism.

It is not only religion that has to know its boundaries. There is a point where the media have to give some regard for human dignity. They must restrain themselves, even at the risk of not maximizing their prime-time ratings.



The unarmed who defeated the armed. (Caption on tall figure: Prisoner 56-67.)



Hitler, berating Ariel Sharon, holds a paper with the words 'murder of prisoners of war.' Caption: 'O son, this crime I never dared commit!'

## Egyptian calumnies

EYE ON THE MEDIA

DAVID BAR-ILAN

EGYPT'S *Rouz al Yousef* is not an opposition paper. It is a left-leaning establishment weekly whose editor is appointed by the regime. Its savage attack on Foreign Minister Ehad Barak earlier this week was not, then, a provocative razzing of the government for getting too close to Israel by an opposition organ. Its voice is that of the intelligentsia, which gives special meaning to its featured story about "Barak the murderer" who specialized in cross-border incursions for the purpose of butchering Arabs.

It listed Barak's "crimes against the Arabs," including his participation in the raid on Arab "fedayeen" in Beirut and "his masterminding the killing of Abu Jihad."

The paper also included an article by Nasserist columnist Seti Assam Hanafi. His message was familiar: "Israel is our number one enemy, the main danger to our Arab nation. All this peace is nothing but a Zionist mirage. Israel has not given up its old dreams of conquering the region's states, and now it is helping Eritrea attack Yemen, our Arab sister." For good measure the paper also claimed that Israel is pursuing a campaign to get rid of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa.

All in all, it was a well-planned welcome for Israel's new foreign minister.

Perhaps realizing at the visit's end that Barak - acting more as Prime Minister Peres's shadow than as a former chief of staff - needed no such softening, Moussa said he regretted the "unnecessary" press attack. Barak, he said, should ignore it the way he, Moussa, ignored attacks on him in the Israeli press. Conveniently, Moussa failed to note that the editors of Israeli newspa-

pers are not appointed by the government, nor the fact that he has never been attacked personally in the Israeli press - let alone in an article branding him (or a former Egyptian chief of staff) "murderer" and "butcher."

That neither Rabin's assassination nor Shimon Peres's preemptive concessions have changed Egyptian attitudes can be seen in the official government newspaper *Al-Ahram* (Weekly English edition, November 22). In a column called Soap Box, reserved for prominent establishment personalities, Cairo University economics professor Mahmoud Abdel-Fadi writes, "In the Israeli vision Arabs are required to become robots... Arabs and the Egyptians are expected to forget the murder of their relatives by the Israelis while Israel raises heaven and hell in its search for the corpse of Adar [sic], the Israeli airforce pilot downed in Lebanon."

The "murder of their relatives" refers to the alleged killing of Egyptian prisoners by Israeli soldiers in the Sinai. The subject - the latest excuse for virulent anti-Israel propaganda - has become a permanent, unmovable fixture in the Egyptian press. This, despite Peres's pledge to appoint a prominent Israeli to conduct an investigation of the matter and Mubarak's purported reluctance to make an issue of it. (Needless to say, no Israeli official has asked Egypt to investigate the proved murders of Israeli POWs, killed not in the heat of battle, but after being imprisoned and tortured.)

Even ADL National Director Abraham Foxman, who only a month ago went into paroxysms of praise for Saudi Arabia ("there is a different sort of freedom here - freedom from taxes and want, and a sense of safety," he said in Riyadh, in the best tradition of tyrants' toadies) found it necessary to protest Egyptian television's anti-Israel reporting.

In a letter to Egypt's Ambassador to the US Ahmed Sayed, Foxman described a recent segment of "News



A Jew plays on an Egyptian prisoner with a saw. The score is titled 'The Symphony of Cultured Israel' (Al-Ahram)

Spotlight." In it, the host claimed that prime minister Rabin was killed because his efforts to establish peace with the Palestinians were "in violation of the very doctrine on which the state of Israel was founded... the doctrine of Jewish-territorial expansionism with no thought of relinquishing one inch of the land seized."

## The apocalyptic visions of our secular messianists

YITZHAK RABIN'S murder sent some of our secular messianists in the Zionist socialist and liberal camps into a new apocalyptic frenzy.

The first time was after the victories of the political and religious right-wing parties in the 1977; it happened again after the 1988 elections.

Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, nestor of the Abdu Ha'avoda wing of the Labor Alignment, said: "The country won't take this lying down." ("Ha'aretz lo tishkon.") (Shulamit Aloni, then leader of the Citizens' Rights Movement (CRM), thought that democracy that produced such election results was deficient, and predicted a reign of clerical fascism.)

Prof. Boaz Moav, a CRM member of the Eighth Knesset who didn't make it in 1977, raised the specter of Menachem Begin's government curtailing civil rights.

Addressing the founding meeting of the "Peace Bloc," he said that "it" (mark that demagogic "it") that happened, what would "be needed is not a 'peace bloc' but a war bloc, to wage a public struggle and a civic rebellion to defend basic mental democratic rights."

Shimon Peres told a post-mortem meeting of Alignment leaders that Labor would under no circumstances join a national-unity government, "because we are Labor and they are Right."

Novelist/essayist Amos Oz called on fellow "sane" Zionists to prepare to take up arms to thwart the nefarious designs of the new, "tribalistic" regime. He repeatedly used that demagogic "it" as he pounded away on his tom-tom of fear and incitement:

"If, indeed, the Likud-NRP government encourages the growth of the Gush Ennamin movement in paramilitary form - kinds of falanges with weapons arsenals and staffs and communications equipment - then our youth movements will have to respond to this frightening challenge [and] the Palmah will have to come to life again.... If the Likud starts silencing 'defeatists,' if they purge the radio and television of 'troublers of Israel' [see I Kings 18:17 - M.K.] and 'moral destroyers' - we will have to react as a fighting workers' movement:

A VIEW FROM NOV  
MOSHE KOHN

in the streets."

Intellectual lights of the left-wing kibbutz movements declared that hope and the State of Israel were dead; in any event, they wouldn't fight for a Likud-governed Israel.

"Fascism has won." "A hundred years of Zionism have been erased," said other inciters of the all-or-nothing brand of democrats and liberals, those tom-tom pounders posing as champions of democracy and liberty.

The results are a "regression from the liberal revolution and the Age of Reason." "The youth will now leave Israel en masse." "I will go on writing, though I may have to publish my work clandestinely." "Black national-religious Khmeimism."

A political cartoonist depicted the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse in the form of Likud, NRP and two haredi politicians.

Another showed an ugly, scantily dressed woman labeled "Secularists" crying, "Police! They want to rape me!" as she flees her pursuers: a bare-fanged, long-nosed haredi type riding on the shoulders of prime minister Yitzhak Shamir dressed as a policeman.

The governments led by Begin and Shamir didn't even try to carry out any of those dire predictions during their tenures.

The presenters and players on our state-run television and radio continued unhampered in the adversarial role in which journalists and artists believe God anointed them as heirs of the Prophets.

About the worst indignity some of our electronic journalists was to refer to areas of Eretz Yisrael by their historical names - Judea, Samaria and the like - rather than by the names our enemies latterly imposed on them, such as "West Bank."

Some even bit their tongues and referred to the Jews living in those areas by the neutral term "residents" (*Yoshavim* or *Yoshavim* in Hebrew) rather than by the term pinned on them with pejorative intent by their enemies, "settlers" (*Minaholim*).

And the Education and Cul-

ture Ministry under the NRP's Ze'ev Hammer dared to take measures to enrich the impoverished Jewish-culture content of the curricula of state-general schools in Jewish areas.

In general, the Begin-Shamir regimes did not tamper with the civil liberties of those who did not break the law or give good cause to suspect that they might be using those liberties to harm the well-being of the state and its citizens and guests.

Ironically, it is the present pseudo-social-democratic government that has flagrantly, sometimes violently, restricted some of those liberties.

In some instances only a public outcry whose voices include even left-wing civil libertarians are preventing harsher restrictions.

It is today that we have almost totally left-sided TV and radio reporting and interviewing, as attested by the findings of Media Watch. It is today that we see a radical decrease in Jewish-study and Eretz Yisrael-study content in our state-general elementary and high schools.

In 1932, Ze'ev Jabotinsky called for the breaking of the power of the Histadrut. Not his political heirs, Begin and Shamir, implemented that call; our Laborites are doing so.

BUT LEFT-WING incitement preceded the 1977 elections.

Half a year earlier, novelist/essayist A.B. Yehoshua wrote about that phenomenon, the Gush Ennamin settlement movement: "...It's hard to understand the hysteria in Israel's dovish circles over the recent settlement operations of Gush Ennamin... we should rather encourage them to settle as much as possible beyond the Green Line, so when the longed-for peace comes and we are liberated from the territories, we will also be freed of [the settlers]... Let them go and live in Sebastia, in Upper and Lower Horon [in Samaria], and if possible let them also go to Beshan and Gilead [in Jordan]..." (*Ha'aretz*, January 23, 1976).

Yehoshua and the rest are only operating in a tradition of verbal violence that had been honed by David Ben-Gurion and other early leading lights of the Zionist socialist movement.

More about that another time.

BRULIK

by DOSH



## When renewed faith wipes away the tears

SHABBAT SHALOM

SHLOMO HISKIN

"Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to meet his father, to Goshen, and he presented himself unto him and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while." (Genesis 46:29)

OF all Jacob's suffering, probably the most painful moment occurs when the brothers bring home the blood-soaked coat of many colors and ask their father if it belongs to Joseph. The text is explicit concerning Jacob's suffering: inconceivable, he mourns many days and accepts the fact he will go to his grave a mourner.

In a sense Jacob's life is over, all hope gone. Who knows what thoughts he nurtures about the promises God has made him? In this week's portion of *Vayigash*, we read about the tearful meeting of father and son. Lest there be any doubt as to the importance of their meeting, the next verse contains the words of a person who has achieved total peace: "Now let me die, since I have seen your [Joseph's] face that you are yet alive." (Genesis 46:30)

If it's true that Jacob's encounter with Joseph is the central experience of his life, redeeming not only his own faith but the promises God has given to his descendants, then the meeting should illuminate basic truths about the nature of the Jewish people and our destiny.

What immediately strikes us is the ambiguity. We don't know who fell on whose neck or who wept. Was it Jacob or Joseph? Rashi comments that it was Joseph who wept. And what was Jacob doing at that moment? Ac-

cording to the Midrash, Jacob was busy saying the *Shema*: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God the Lord is One."

The Ramban disagrees, arguing that common sense doesn't allow for the view that Jacob kept silent while Joseph wept. After all, if an old father finds his son alive after believing he's been dead for 22 years, how could we doubt that he wept?

And yet Rashi must be addressed. What's so significant about the *Shema*, especially at this moment?

IT HAD been clear that all the Divine promises for his descendants were to be realized through Joseph, devoted student of family lore, dreamer of lofty dreams. Without Joseph, what has become of the Divine promises? From this vantage point, it makes sense that Jacob's immediate response to his encounter with Joseph was to declare the formula of Jewish faith.

Rashi explains further that Jacob wishes to communicate a crucial lesson. Emotional dictate, as the Ramban so sensitively notes, that the old father weep, but Jacob wants to teach his son the supremacy of the God of Israel. Jacob is teaching Joseph; no matter how strong your emotions, he is saying, your first allegiance must be to the God whose law stands above emotion and desire.

A striking example of how we can either control our emotions

and live, or be controlled by them and die, is to be found by comparing two personalities in the First Book of Samuel. It opens with the account of a childless woman named Hannah visiting the Sanctuary in Shiloh to pray. She vows that if God remembers her and gives her a son, she will dedicate him to the service of God. When the high priest, Eli, sees a woman whose lips move but who utters no words, he suspects her of being drunk. "She speaks to her heart," is how the text describes her concentration.

Hannah cannot possibly be drunk, the text is teaching us. A person who drinks to inebriation is not in control of his emotions; he is a slave to instinct and desire. Hannah "speaks to her heart" means she stands over and above the emotions of the heart. She is praying sincerely and her prayer will be answered.

IN CONTRAST, the story of Nabal describes a rich shepherd protected by David whose selfish desires make him reject David in the king's hour of need; he sends away the lads who've come to him with a request for provisions.

The text describes him as a "hard man, evil in deeds, like his heart." The verse ends with the word "*kalilo*," which can either be taken as a description of parentage ("from the house of Caleb") or as the description of a personality identified with its emotions. David plans a deadly attack on

this ungrateful man. In the meantime, word reaches Nabal's wife, who rescues her husband by sending David 200 loaves, two bottles of wine, five prepared sheep, five measures of parched corn, 100 clusters of raisins, and 200 cakes of figs.

Nabal is none the wiser since he celebrates the festival of sheep shearing with a kingly feast and, true to form, gets drunk. Only in the morning is he told of his wife's gift, and in an instant Nabal's "heart died within him and he became as a stone." (I Sam. 25:37)

Hannah and Nabal stand at opposite ends of the spectrum; Hannah speaks to her heart and makes it listen, while Nabal's heart ordered him to do what he wanted and not what God would have wanted.

Understanding Jacob's recital of the *Shema* at this intense moment as a supreme lesson to teach Joseph the importance of God over emotions is built into the paragraph that follows: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might." (Deuteronomy 6:5)

Rabbi Akiva has dramatically taught the message of *mesirat nefesh*, the willingness to give your very life for God. To have discovered that Joseph is still alive is to endow Jacob's life with renewed significance.

But instead of losing control, he says the *Shema*, acknowledging that a Jew must be willing to give his life for God, not only when he has nothing left to lose, but even when life has become so exquisitely precious.

Shabbat Shalom



# Best hands of the year

BRIDGE  
MATTHEW GRANOVETTER

East dealer  
East-West vulnerable

North (Kokish)	South (Silver)
♠ 972	♠ AK843
♥ K1075	♥ A98
♦ Q1083	♦ AKJ2
♣ AS	♣ K

West	North	East	South
♠ Q1065	♠ 2h	♠ J	♠ 1h
♥ Q	♥ 3v	♥ J6432	♥ 3h
♦ 74	♦ 5h	♦ 965	♦ 4h
♣ J109752	♣ 6h	♣ Q643	♣ 6h

Opening lead: ♠J

clubs was of dubious value. Kokish, North, raised to two spades, showing three-card support and 7-to-10 points. The three-club rebid by Silver was artificial; it was a short-suit game try, showing a singleton or void in clubs.

Kokish showed his heart suit with the bid of three hearts and Silver now bid his diamond suit at the four level, showing slam interest in the process. If Silver had no slam intentions, he would simply have bid game in spades.

Kokish now reevaluated his hand as only experts know how. He had shown a hand with a top limit of 10 points. Looking at his ace, king and queen, all working cards opposite the club shortness, he knew he could not hold much more for partner, and he had decent four-card support for his partner's diamond suit as well. So he raised to five diamonds.

It is never easy to switch trump suits in midstream, but such flexibility is the hallmark of the expert bidder. The Canadians had started out bidding and raising spades at the one and two level, but suddenly were bidding and raising diamonds at the four and five level.

Silver concluded the auction by bidding the slam in the strong 4-4 fit. He saw the possibility of discarding hearts from the North hand on his long spades or discarding hearts from his own hand on a club honor in partner's hand.

West led the jack of clubs and Silver won with his singleton king. He led three rounds of trumps and then a low spade. East won the jack, but on the club return Silver won with dummy's ace of clubs, discarding a heart from his hand, and led to the ace and king of spades. Finally, he ruffed a spade in dummy and his hand was high.

In the other room, where a partnership from Sweden sat North-South, the inferior contract of six spades was reached. This failed by two tricks. There was no hope in six spades after the trump suit divided 4-1. Notice that if the diamond suit had split 4-1, while the spade suit split 3-2, Silver would still have made his diamond slam by drawing trumps and playing on spades.

This demonstrates the importance of choosing the stronger of two trump suits in a slam contract, assuming you are able to judge such things. The Canadians went on to win their semifinal match, but lost a close final to an American team.



Ring-necked parakeets weigh only 140 grams, yet have voracious appetites.

## Little green chatterboxes

NATURE  
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

RING-NECKED parakeets have been kept as cage birds since ancient times. The armies of Alexander the Great first brought them from India to Alexandria in Egypt, and the flocks that are common in the Nile Delta region and along the Nile Valley are believed to be descendants of birds that escaped from captivity back then.

Called *Psittacula krameri* in Latin, the birds are referred to as *ukil hutzavaron* in Hebrew and they have been seen here in the wild since 1960. At first, there were occasional reported sightings by individuals in the areas of Rishon LeZion and Rehovot, but these sightings became more frequent as small colonies developed.

There are now several hundred in scattered colonies consisting of flocks of 10 to 50 birds. Some have also been seen in the Beit She'an Valley, Beersheba, Ein Gedi and even Eilat, while larger groups have made a home in the northern and central parts of the country. But the area between Ra'anana and Rishon LeZion is still the place where they are

most common.

Since they were first seen here at about the time that the Ring-necked Parakeet became popular as a caged bird, it is assumed that they must have escaped into the wild from some aviary. But there is the possibility, according to avian wildlife expert Uzi Paz, that they may be vagrants that arrived from the Nile Delta region.

Ring-necked parakeets are hardy little green birds, about 41 centimeters long with a long tail, a red-and-black beak, and in the case of the male, a distinctive black collar.

These noisy little parakeets are seed eaters, but they also feed on leaves and are especially fond of oranges, mandarins, medlar plums and peaches. They also enjoy soft fruit and have the potential to become an agricultural pest. Although they weigh only 140 grams, they have voracious appetites.

Like most Psittaciformes (birds of the parrot family), these parakeets are monogamous. They pick their mates before reaching full sexual maturity and usually remain together throughout their lives.

If one dies, the survivor will seek a mate among the young and as yet unpaired birds.

Ring-necked parakeets nest in old, hollowed-out woodpecker nests in eucalyptus and chinaberry trees or in the interstices between the stumps of palm fronds, where they hollow out a cavity with their sharp beaks.

Nesting begins in late December and continues until mid-June. The female usually lays three to four eggs, but occasionally as many as six, and incubates them alone for 22 to 24 days.

The blind, naked nestlings are fed by both parents until the youngsters are fully fledged at 40 to 50 days of age and begin to fly. They reach sexual maturity when about three years old.

Although not native to Israel, these lovely birds are a beautiful sight to behold and their busy chatter is an addition to any walk through fields or orchards, according to many bird watchers.

## Take a hike!

CHESS  
NICK KOPALOFF

SPECTATORS at chess tournaments are often baffled by the sight of players parading the corridors, chatting in adjacent rooms, or running outside for a quick cigarette.

Chess players take breaks during games to help clear their heads. A break followed by a re-evaluation of the position can uncover new ideas, and highlight obvious moves that might have otherwise gone unnoticed.

In his monumental book, *Think Like a Grandmaster*, Alexander Kotov, quoting from Perelman's *Physics for Fun*, likens chess blindness to an interesting phenomenon in physics. If a person stares fixedly at a square, he will soon fail to see a large black dot which lies on the perimeter of the square. The reason is that we apparently have a blind spot in our eyes.

Even strong players can fail to see the most elementary attack. They may have explored the deepest of variations yet faltered at the base of the analytical tree. A stroll between moves can help.

Another piece of sound advice is to write down one's move before playing it. In so doing, comments Kotov, you remove yourself from the distant future of your game and return to the immediate position.

20.Nx4!! Nx4 21.Qd4 Rc8 22.Ng4!; this is better than the immediate 22.Bxb6 which allows 22...Re5 23.Ng4 Kh7.

22...Kh7 not 22...Kh7 23.e5! 23.Nxb6 Bxd5 24.Nf5 Re5 25.Qd1 Rxf5 26.exf5 f6 27.Re6! Ne5; White retains the upper hand after 27...Be6 28.Qb5+ Kg8 29.fxe6

28.Bd2 a5 29.Kh2 Bb3 30.Qh5+ Kg8 31.f4 Nf7 32.Rg4 Rc5 33.Rb4 Nb6 34.Qg6 Nxf5 35.Bxf5 Rxf5 36.Qxf5 Qd7 37.Qh7+ Kf7 38.Re3 Bc2 39.Qh5+ Bg6 40.Qx5 1-0

THE claim that chess is the country's most successful sport is buttressed by the five Israelis who feature in the world's top 100 players, according to November's listings.

Leonid Yudasin leads the Israeli contingent - his 2626 rating puts him in 36th place. Ilya Smirin (2614) is ranked 46, Lev Psakhis (2607) is ranked 56, Boris Altman (2586) is 85th and young Vadim Milov (2551) is the world's number 96.

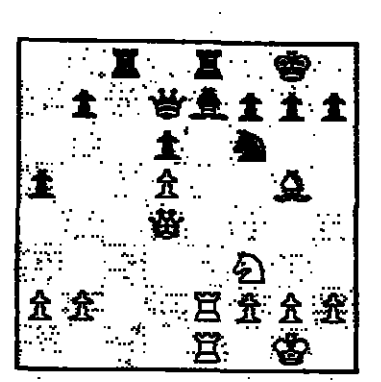


DIAGRAM 2  
Solution: 1.Bxf6! Bxf6; If 1...gxf6, White ties up with 2.Rxe7 Rxe7 3.Rxe7 Qxe7 4.Qg4+ and plucks off the rook on c8.

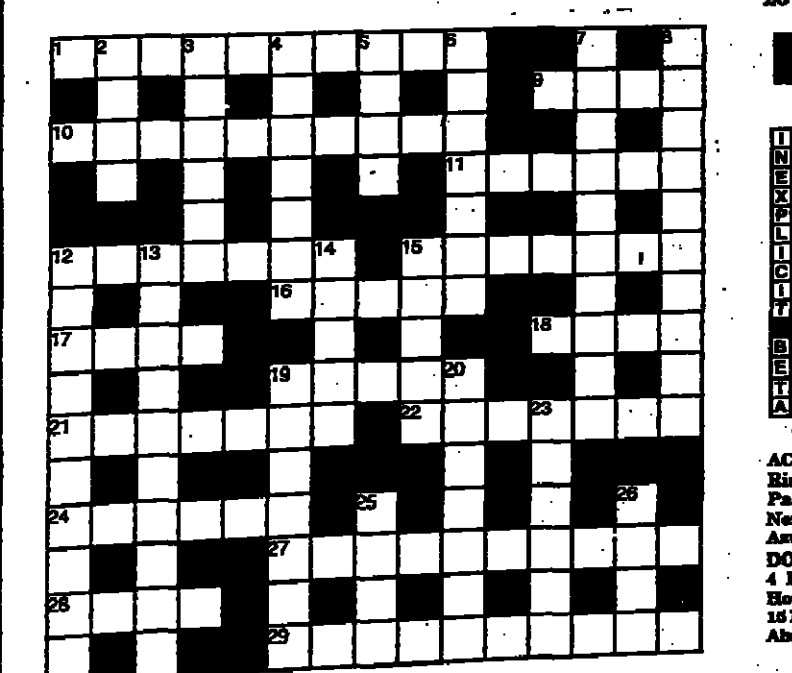
2.Qg4!! Qb5; Of course not 2...Qxg4 after which White mates with 3.Rxe8 Rxe8 4.Rxe8+.

3.Qe4!! Qd7; A capture of the queen again leads to mate on e8.

4.Qc7!! Qb4 5.a4! Qm4 6.b3! Qb4 7.Qxb7!; and the Black queen must relinquish her guard on e8. 1-0

## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Executive recruitment agent seeking a school principal? (4-6)
  - 9 Dentist's examination? (4)
  - 10 Commendation that acts as a tonic? (4,3,3)
  - 11 Fastidiousness for exactness (6)
  - 12 Learn to tell rumour (7)
  - 16 Rock and roll (7)
  - 17 Port area (4)
  - 18 Site in India, grave of Shah Jahan's wife (4)
  - 19 City water supplies (5)
- 21 & 22 Money returnable on a lemonade bottle? (7,7)
- 24 Governor from Sparta (6)
- 27 Note AB isn't represented, refusing to vote (10)
- 28 The advantage a sword has over a blunt weapon? (4)
- 29 The dogs ran wild, being wilful (10)



## SOLUTIONS

Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 1 Acrossed, 5 Weight, 8 River, 9 Evident, 10 Lourdes, 11 Pasta, 12 Middle, 14 Balmor, 17 Nerve, 19 Adamant, 20 Orphan, 23 Amara, 24 Noted, 25 Everest.

DOWN: 1 April, 2 Rescued, 3 World, 4 Dressed, 5 Whimpy, 6 Ideas, 7 Holiest, 12 Monsoon, 13 Lowland, 14 Womans, 16 Humble, 18 Repeat, 20 Abnity, 21 Treat.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Metric weight (6)
  - 4 Garret (5)
  - 8 Eject (5)
  - 9 Calendar (7)
  - 10 Sketch (7)
  - 11 Vend (4)
  - 12 Sprite (3)
  - 14 Image (4)
  - 15 Detect (4)
  - 18 Still (3)
  - 21 Too (4)
  - 23 Serious (7)
  - 25 Evolve (7)
  - 26 Banish (5)
  - 27 Big (5)
  - 28 Aback (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Avaricious (6)
  - 2 Clap (7)
  - 3 Increase (8)
  - 4 Charity (4)
  - 5 Taut (5)
  - 6 Shellfish (6)
  - 7 Scope (5)
  - 13 Intrepid (8)
  - 16 Exact (7)
  - 17 Marauder (6)
  - 19 Allure (5)
  - 20 Scattered (6)
  - 22 Cut (5)
  - 24 Run away (4)

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## Gratitude for worthwhile work

BEVERLEE BLACK  
FUNDS

Usually this column records sad stories: old people with thin blankets in cold apartments; large families with not enough hand-me-downs to withstand winter's cold; new immigrants walking five km. each way each day to save fare money.

But this is thank-you week. Thank you to Richard Sharetzion for organizing the wonderful concert at the Bible Lands Museum last week and the NIS 3,300 that it has given to the Toy Fund.

Thank you to the American International School in Kfar Shmaryahu and the Girl Scouts and Brownies who went from door to door collecting toys for our less fortunate little ones. In addition, for all the toys that were brought to the school's party and donated to the fund. Thank you, thank you.

And here's a thank you for next April. Thank you Elmd Oimert, the mayor of Jerusalem, who has agreed to donate the Goldberg Sports Hall in Malha for our annual Pessah Handicrafts Fair of 1996.

Finally, thanks to everyone who helps us in our worthwhile work. Don't forget, there's still lots more to do. With your help, we can do it. Send your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, POB 81, Jerusalem 91000.

Donors in the United States wishing to receive tax benefits can send their donations to: Friends of The Jerusalem Post Funds, 211 E. 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017. Please designate in your letter to which fund you wish to donate.

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NIS 750 In memory of Lillian Mendon - Prof. Eric Mendon, Pim. Norma and Israel Shachter, Tel Aviv.

NIS 500 In honor of Michael and Daniela Ruzak - Benno Di Cori, Pim. In memory of our beloved daughter, Orith - Martha Anon, Ramat Gan.

NIS 180 Anon, Beersheba. In memory of my parents Fruma and Zeev Shapiro, on their 15th yahrzeit - Esther Rafaeli, Ramat Gan.

NIS 200 In memory of Tel. Kibbutz Sde Nehemia, Edward and Betty Wolfe, Kfar Sava. In memory of Margaret Phillips - her brother and sister-in-law, Pim. In memory of our fathers, Chaim Sholman and Sam A. Sholman - Gene and Honey Sholman, Pim. From L.R., Givatayim.

NIS 150 In honor of our parents Barbara and Abe Keltner's 40th anniversary - Renee and David Rothberg, Mendocino, Sharmat.

NIS 150 In memory of my parents, Dina and Ike Shorman - Anon, Ramat Aviv.

NIS 125 In memory of our Mum and Sava - Anne, Wayne and Leigh Gordon, Eschbar.

NIS 110 Wolf Granberg, Bogota, Colombia.

NIS 100 A peaceful Hamukka to all - Sabta Sarah, Haifa. In loving memory of our dear father, Max Froelich, who passed away in his 101st year last January - Carole and David Froelich, Rehovot. Clara and Felix Lagado, Givatayim. Hannah and Steven Jasser, Pim. Tami and Nachman Goldwasser, Kibbutz Geder Haziv. In memory of - A.Y. - S.F.V. E., Givat Shimon. Susan Levin, Herzliya.

NIS 80 Mrs. B. A. Lauzon, Tivon.

NIS 75 Theresa Jerome, Pim. Michael and Miriam Schwarz, Pim.

NIS 50 In memory of my beloved husband - Ule Sender, Rishon LeZion. Ellen Zwarts-Gerson, Beth Yam, Anon, Beit Shemesh. On behalf of Eljakim Borkent, With thanks for a job well done - From S., Pim. Gity and Ezra Henkin, Hofit. Shulamit Gavron, Givatayim.

In memory of my dear husband Mary Okrent (who loved Hamukka) and our parents Annel and Reia Okrent, Lea and Max Samet - Selma Okrent, Tel Aviv. Marina Shachar, Pim.

NIS 54 (times 2) In loving memory of the first yahrzeit of my beloved husband Rabbi Benjamin Morgenstern - S.M., Pim. In honor of the birthday of a dear friend - Gerald Kreidler - S.M., Pim.

NIS 40 In memory of our dear husband and father Hans Gutman - Genia, Mickey and Danny, Haifa.

NIS 36 In memory of our Aunt Edith who was loved and cherished in her old age - A. and M. K., Ashkelon.

NIS 30 In memory of my dear husband - Anon, Ramat Gan.

NIS 18 Berta Kaufman, Beersheba.

NIS 15 Eva Berkson, Netanya. In memory of my loved ones - Doreen, Tel Aviv. \$1,000 The Estate of Pearl Samuels, Miami Beach, FL.

\$200 In honor of the marriage of Benjie and Sharon Krassa in Jerusalem - Arwin and Anne Krassa - Highland Park, NJ, and Pim.

\$120 In memory of Yitzhak Rabin, hero, leader and martyr - Dave and Edith Gass, Skokie, IL.

\$100 In memory of David and Rosy Lessman, Jacob and Malvina Malka Lessman, Moshe and Sarah Lessman - Miriam Lessman-Rosen, Tel Aviv. Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Greenberg, Deerfield Beach, FL. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bennett, Englewood, NJ.

\$75 William and Sylvia Gerschl, Scottsdale.

\$60 On the yahrzeit of Jacob Rothstein - Auri and Myer Rothstein, Tel Aviv. In memory of Abe Cooper and Ethel Blitzer - Herbert and Donna Cooper, Denver, CO.

\$50 Anita Starr, Dorset, VT. In memory of our mother - Elise Bonczak, Doctorate. Gert Doctorate, Stone Mountain, GA.

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\$20 In memory of our beloved father and grandfather, Rabbi Abraham Horwitz - Judy Bernstein and Family, Brockton, MA.

\$18 Best wishes to the newlyweds - The Hamd Children, Adam, Naftali and Sara, Chevy Chase, MD. In loving memory of our parents, Khay and Joseph, Zagan Meyer and Esther Soloff - Dr. and Mrs. Solomon Soloff, Toms River, NJ. Harvey Winston, New York, NY.

\$15 Virginia Rantall, Scottsdale, AZ.

\$10 In honor of the 80th birthday of Mr. James Glisk, with love - Mary and Lou Pukli, Worcester, MA. Mr. and Mrs. David Cowan, Atlanta, GA.

\$10 Lionel Liff, Ramat Gan.

\$1000 Iona Heiman, Frankfurt.

Sw.Fr. 500 In memory of my sister Lidia Aida Levi - Emilio Levi, Geneva.

DFL1,000 To my wonderful wife, thanks for the first 25 years - Joseph Krant, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

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(The Toy Fund and the Welcome Home Fund will be printed in Monday's paper.)



# By the waters of Zion, we remembered Babylon

Nature works powerful magic in Zion National Park, but peak-season visitors will also find man-made hindrances like smog and traffic jams, Esther Hecht reports

**S**HADOWS of branches, backlit by the moon, shimmered back and forth over the tent ceiling, as gusts of wind whooshed down the canyon.

The tent was still warm with the blast-furnace heat of the day, and we lay on top of our sleeping bags watching this spooky ballet, talking about bats and chipmunks, mountain lions and mule deer.

A family of city slickers from — as we told everyone — “the real Zion,” we had begun a two-week camping trip in southwestern Utah with a four-night stay at Zion National Park.

We had already “done” Zion three times, many years before. Like many of the 350,000 people who crowded in with us during August to spend an average of just 2½ hours communing with nature, we had oohed and ahed, and moved on.

This time we were going to really experience the park, at least as much of it as could be experienced without backpacking. Roughing it in a tent was one thing; backpacking, well, that was going too far.

We were content to lie there as the wind huffed and puffed, our two-meter-high nylon house straining at its pegs. Then there was a flash of light followed by the sound of a gigantic sledgehammer smashing into the cliffs above.

Soon it would rain again, cooling the air a little and washing it clean, as it had that afternoon. When the earlier storm hit, we just stood there, letting ourselves be drenched as we watched waterfalls appear from nowhere and cascade over the sheer red cliffs, then slow to a trickle

and disappear as the storm moved on.

**WE HAD** pitched our tent in South Campground, one of two developed camping areas in Zion. Both are at the southern tip of Zion Canyon, the deep gorge that is the centerpiece of the park.

The canyon was carved by the deceptively named Virgin River, which today is as disappointingly narrow as the Jordan River, but still has a fierce current, even on sunny summer days.

After thunderstorms, the Virgin River swelled, turning muddy and uninviting, as it carried away silt and sediment, carving the canyon deeper and deeper, just as it had done for millions of years.

The process was similar to that which created the Grand Canyon, just 190 kilometers south of Zion, but the end result was different.

As ranger David Rachlis, 35, described it: “Zion’s walls give you a sense of scale, making you feel maybe like a small rodent, as opposed to Grand Canyon, which makes you feel like a microbe.”

**UNTIL THE** end of the Sixties, the park was not well known, Rachlis said in a wry evening presentation, entitled “All Roads Lead to Zion.”

But completion of Interstate 15 in 1971 meant that “25 percent of the population of the US lives within a day’s drive of Zion.” Instead of being a mysterious part of the wilderness, the park has become just an “exit off the Interstate,” and visitors are coming “not just to see nature’s spectacles, but for recreation.” The “national park,” he said, is becoming



Menu Falls is one of the many beautiful attractions of Zion National Park. (TW Services)

ing part of the vast “Las Vegas recreational park.” In the 1970s, 12 to 14 tour buses

arrived each day; now, 60 to 70 jockey for parking space. And when visitors arrive by car, he

said, before they can hike up a trail, “around and around they go” in the lots looking for a park-

ing space, just like pre-Christmas shoppers at the malls in his native New York.

And yet, Rachlis said with a wistful sigh, after eight years in the park, he has come to realize that “the true Zion has always been just a few steps from the roadway.”

**ON OUR** last full day, after going around and around to find a parking space, we walked the Weeping Rock Trail, behind a busload of jabbering Israelis. Gradually, we fell behind as we stopped to read the detailed description on each of the trees. There was the hackberry, which dies to give life to insects, and a hair plant, which needs neither soil nor sun.

It was hot, and we moved slowly, looking closely at the trunks and the leaves. Some of the trees were tall — a sure indication, a sign said, that there was plenty of water nearby. Obvious? Perhaps, but not to us slickers until the sign pointed it out.

Finally, at the top of the trail, we reached Weeping Rock, a broad overhang moist and cool, where we could rest, looking down at the path we’d climbed. And there we read the last sign of this trail: “Slow down,” it exhorted. “Enjoy the park with all your senses.”

Under that curved rock, in that moist, cool, quiet space, we obeyed the sign and knew that Zion had fulfilled its promise.

That night, as we walked back to our tent after the ranger’s talk, we looked up at the sky. It was ablaze with stars. We could even see the Milky Way — hidden from view in the real Zion by the multitude of man-made lights.

We had to agree with Rachlis: The magic was still there. You just had to step away from the road and look.

Admission to the park is \$5 (NIS 16) per carful per day; a \$25 (NIS 79) Golden Eagle pass affords unlimited admission for a carful of visitors to all national parks and monuments for a year. Overnight camping fees are \$7 (NIS 22) per site for up to a maximum of 14 days.

## Youngster discovers there’s life after TV

**WE** wondered how our 12-year-old son would manage 14 days of electronics deprivation in the wilds of Utah.

When we arrived at Zion National Park, Omer couldn’t wait to help set up the tent.

Then he sat down at the picnic table, stared unseeing at the Virgin River rushing by and the sheer cliffs beyond it, and pronounced those hateful 12-year-old words: “I’m bored.”

That was when we found out the park has a Junior Rangers program, a series of three-hour activities, in the mornings and afternoons in high season, for children aged six to 12, and that it is in South Campground, where we were staying. Very reluctantly, Omer agreed to try it.

That session was about rocks and wildlife. When we picked Omer up, he was hot and sweaty, but he was clutching a certificate — the first step toward becoming a Junior Ranger. To complete the course, he had to participate in two more activities: his choice of a guided walk, an evening slide talk, a set of paper-and-pencil games, or another Junior Rangers session.

On the way back to the tent, we asked him whether he’d liked the program. Scuffing the pebbles in the path, he muttered out of the side of his mouth, “Nah, it’s for younger kids.”

But after dinner that evening he kept asking what time it was. He was determined to get a good seat at the evening slide show, a humorous presentation starring “Sherlock Holmes,” about why rocks fall and land slides.

The next morning, Omer took off down the road. “Where are you going?” we asked. “I have to go to the Junior Rangers program,” he replied. When we came to pick him up, he was so engrossed in making a map he didn’t even notice us.

After that session, he was full-fledged Junior Ranger, with a cougar patch I sewed onto his cap. But he hadn’t had his fill.

That evening, with his cap on his head, he dragged us to a presentation on bats, and the next evening to a presentation on the food web. In the daytime, he made sure we drove through the tunnel and went on nearly every self-guided walk. Everywhere he went, he told anyone who would listen that he was a Junior Ranger.

In the course of 14 days, he added badges and patches to his cap at four national parks and monuments, learning more about wildlife, geology, history and protecting the environment than he could learn in school in a year. And as he learned, we learned too.

The Junior Rangers program cost \$1 (NIS 3) this summer. All other activities were free. E.H.

## Ski hot line available

TRAVEL TIPS  
HAIM SHAPIRO

**A** ski hot line has been opened by Graiver Tours, which specializes in ski vacations and promises that callers to tel. 177-022-8808 will be able to receive full information on the state of Europe’s slopes, waiting time at ski lifts and apres-ski facilities.

A ski package for the last week in January at La Plagne is being offered by Omniworld for \$655 per person. The price includes flights to and from Grenoble, a studio apartment for four and rental of ski equipment.

Amiel Tours is offering a series of ski vacations at Club Robinson facilities. A seven-night package at the Robinson Arosa costs from \$956, including full board, lessons and ski pass.

A THREE-day weekend in Galilee and the Golan Heights is available from KAL, which specializes in domestic tourism and has organized the package together with the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. The NIS 199 price per person includes two nights with breakfast in SPNI accommodations and tours with an SPNI guide.

ARKIA is offering a series of three-night packages to Hurghada on the Red Sea. The price of

\$445 includes accommodation with breakfast at the local Hilton Hotel.

**THE HOLIDAY** Inn chain has lowered prices for January and February, with rooms sleeping two adults and two children, plus breakfast. Sample prices are \$70 in Brussels, Bologna, and Mar-seilles, \$85 in London, Paris and Frankfurt, and \$103 in Vienna, Amsterdam and Madrid.

ESHET TOURISM Services in Tel Aviv is offering packages to Turkey through direct sales, with a four-night midweek visit to Istanbul for \$229, including hotel with breakfast and flights during January and February. A similar excursion to Antalya is selling for \$159.

**SOUTH AFRICAN** Airways is offering a flight to Buenos Aires, via Johannesburg, with the option of a stopover in South Africa. The price of the flight is \$1,500.

**THE Ocean Majesty** has canceled its cruises in the Red Sea. According to an agreement between the companies involved, passengers who were to have sailed on the *Ocean Majesty* are to go on the *Odyssus* instead.

## Mt. Tabor: Difficult to reach but well worth the effort

SEE IT HERE  
HAIM SHAPIRO

**A**LTHOUGH it may seem like a long time away, the year 2000 is drawing close for the planners who expect a wave of Christian visitors to mark two millennia since the birth of Jesus.

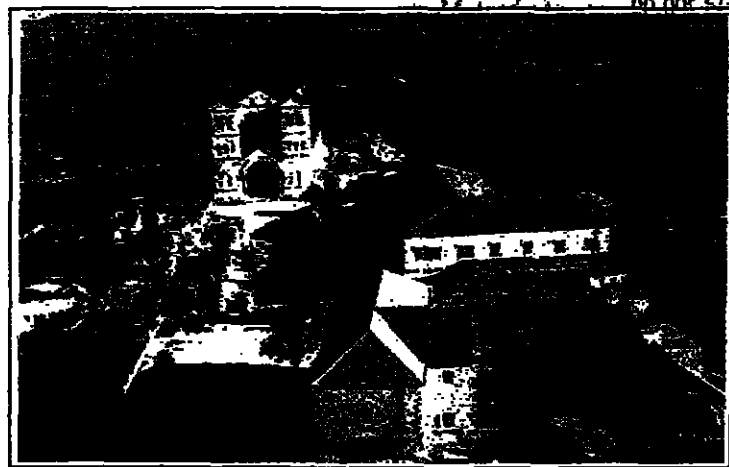
Among the many Christian sites currently undergoing renovations is Mt. Tabor, which according to Christian tradition is the site of the transfiguration — where Jesus, like Moses and Elijah, was transformed before the eyes of his disciples and appeared shining white.

The mountain is, of course, also mentioned in the Bible as the site of Deborah’s victory over Sisera.

From the Jezreel Valley, Tabor appears deceptively small. But once we actually began to climb the mountain, we saw how steep and high it is.

We reached the road up to the mountain by turning off toward Dabburiya at the Tabor Junction on the Afula-Tiberias Highway.

The road up to the top of the mountain is currently being improved by the National Parks Authority, which has undertaken the work with the cooperation of the Franciscans and Greek Or-



At this time of year, Mt. Tabor is especially impressive, with plenty of greenery and wild flowers.

thodox, who between them own most of the crest.

In fact, it seemed as if most of the roads in Dabburiya were under construction. We took what appeared to be the road up the mountain, only to be met by a no-entry sign, which local residents told us to ignore.

Further up the mountain was another no-entry sign, which said that only taxis were permitted on the road.

In fact, this sign is somewhat deceptive. What it actually means is that the road is unsuitable for buses, which must transfer their passengers to taxis to take them

up the mountain. Private cars are allowed on the road, even though it may be a bit hair-raising.

At this time of year the mountain is especially impressive, with plenty of greenery and wild flowers. The views, in every direction, are magnificent.

Although to my sorrow there were no walking paths, and none planned, the Trans-Israel Trail of the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel includes Tabor with a trail around the mountain.

There are few sites which appear less inviting than the Franciscan sanctuary at the peak. Numerous signs tell visitors that

entry is only for prayer and pilgrims in suitable attire.

On Saturday, when numerous Israelis go on outings, the site is closed altogether, even for pilgrims.

In fact, one of the most interesting things about the Franciscan compound is the handsome outer gate, a relic of the Crusaders known as the Gate of the Wind. There are some remains of earlier fortresses, and there is the church itself, built in 1924.

A stairway leads up to the roof of the church for yet another spectacular view.

The entry to the Greek Orthodox monastery was not forbidding. There were no signs denying entry, but the gate was locked, and there was not even the usual bell chain.

When we knocked on the door, using the knocker, a monk appeared briefly, indicated in sign language that the monastery was locked, and then disappeared.

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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1995

17

## The coin clippers

COMMENT

AMOTZ ASA-EL

FACED with a monetary chaos created by 14 privately held mints which circulated more than 800 different gold and silver coins, and anxious over the widespread coin clipping, chipping and counterfeiting which inevitably ensued, the city of Amsterdam established 390 years ago a public bank.

The bank assessed, exchanged, and deposited foreign coins for a modest commission, thus providing a neutral monetary benchmark that helped fight the currency abuse with which an inflation ridden Europe was plagued after the discovery of bullion-rich America.

It took long decades — as the needs of the Dutch East India Co. became pressing — until that bank began to actually lend money, but even so it is the first recorded bud of modern central banking. From it eventually emanated institutions like the Bank of England, the Federal Reserve and the Bundesbank, which help stabilize the world economy by creating, pricing and lending money to commercial banks, while also regulating and supervising their work.

Surely we would not be contemplating all this history when our minds are occupied with an assortment of burning issues anywhere between Maryland and Ofakim, but the fact is that we found right here, among us, the direct descendants of those short-sighted, self-centered coin clippers. They even have names and titles: Manufacturers Association President Dan Propper, Chambers of Commerce President Dan Gillerman, and Trade Minister Michal Harish.

The economic facts are plain: Over the last year Israel's inflation was nearly halved, from more than 14 percent to an estimated 7.5 percent. Throughout that period, the central bank ignored various business circles' howls and unwaveringly stood by its tight-money policies, in line with its well-defined mandate: to preserve the Shekel's value.

The relationship between these two facts is that of cause and effect. To suggest — like Gillerman — that the decline in inflation stems from "circumstantial" fluctuations in the prices of fruit and

vegetable is economic jibberish. So are Propper's relentless attempts to convince us that the high price of credit is responsible for the yawning deficits in the balances of trade and payments. It is no coincidence that he could enlist no economists — other than those he employs — to support this claim.

In fact the deficits stem from the government's fiscal licentiousness, particularly the pay raises it generated since 1993 in the public sector.

Naturally these individuals' concern is not Israel's trade balance — Propper himself is, wisely, busy fighting for the local coffee market by importing it from Nesle — but their own personal interests. A strong shekel makes it harder for their local products to sell here. Indeed, the weaker our purchasing power, the happier they seem to be, like their coin-clipping spiritual forebears.

In fact, even if the Central Bank's policies were the cause of Israel's macro-economic ills, that still would be none of Propper et al.'s business. Their job is not to think what is good for the country, but what is good for their profits; the real profits, not those generated by economic deceit and monetary chipping, but by industrial vision and financial savvy.

One doesn't hear, say, Volkswagen's CEO Wolfgang Piech or GM's John Smith reprimanding central bankers Hans Tietmeyer and Alan Greenspan for their monetary policies. Neither does one hear such talk in Israel from key industrialists like Teva's Eli Hurvitz or Iscar's Stef Wertheimer. Apparently they know well that Jacob Frenkel knows what he's doing, and that if his credit is expensive, then in today's Israel they have plenty of viable alternatives in foreign currency.

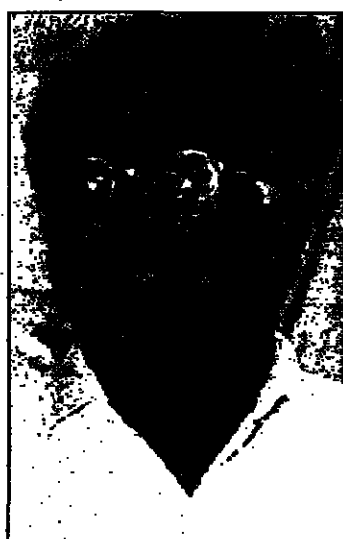
As for Harish, he is not even part of this team, but only its groupy, trying to enlist its support in a hopeless, last-ditch attempt to salvage his dwindling political fortunes.

One should feel sorry for this trio, and wish it all the bad luck in its unscrupulous attempts to chip the powers of Israel's central bank.

## Harish blocked in effort to limit Frenkel's powers

### Proposal not coordinated with Shohat

Jerusalem Post Staff



Harish plan calls for council to share power with central bank governor. (Silvano Wolowicz)

A PROPOSAL to reduce the powers of the governor of the Bank of Israel was introduced to the media yesterday by Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish, but government sources said he is having difficulty getting the idea on the cabinet's agenda.

Sources at the Treasury said the proposal, promoted by various business lobbies, was not coordinated with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat who, while often in disagreement with Governor Jacob Frenkel, is an avid supporter of the central bank's independence. Other government sources said the move appears to be part of Harish's attempts to survive politically by catering to the interests of the Manufacturers Association.

Shohat and the Bank of Israel, wouldn't comment.

Minister Yossi Beilin, who is deeply involved in the government's economic work, also knew nothing of Harish's move, said spokesman Aviv Shiron. Asked whether he would support Harish's move, Beilin said he wouldn't support any move not supported by Frenkel himself.

The cabinet secretary's office said the issue has yet to be officially placed on the agenda.

Harish's blueprint calls for the

including those pertaining to the price of credit.

The council's decisions would be taken by a simple vote among its members, each of whom would have power equal to that of his colleagues.

Harish's stance is supported by the Manufacturers' Association and the Chambers of Commerce, which represent business circles who were hurt by the solid exchange rate and relatively high interest rates which dominated the monetary scene this year.

Economists have attacked the proposal, calling it a cynical attempt on the part of interested parties to sap Frenkel's powers and those of the Bank of Israel.

"Accepting this proposal will have a regressive effect, and lead the economy back to the inflationary era," said Prof. Jacob Parosh of Bar-Ilan University.

As for the yawning balance-of-payments deficit, attributed by Frenkel's opponents to the central bank's monetary policies, Parosh said it is attributable primarily to the government's fiscal policies.

He also said that Frenkel's opponents are wrong in their claim that the Bank of Israel's monetary policy is determined by one man alone.

## Agriculture Ministry preparing for wheat imports if dry winter continues

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE Agriculture Ministry is readying itself to import wheat if the present dry season continues.

"This year Israeli farmers planted 700,000 dunam expected to yield 280,000 tons of wheat. Most of the fields have no irrigation infrastructure, depending entirely on rainfall.

Low levels of rainfall this winter have the Agriculture Ministry concerned about the 1996 wheat harvest.

"If no rain falls by January 5 the fields will be severely damaged," warned Yossi Dror, secretary of the Field Crop Growers' Union. The date falls one month after planting. "Farmers will have to give up on their yield for this year."

Dror conceded that "in recent years there have been turnarounds and we must not lose hope."

Locally produced wheat provides one-third of Israel's needs, with the remainder imported from the US and Europe. The

Agriculture Ministry has begun to prepare for possible additional wheat imports.

A special "Drought Committee" comprised jointly of the Agriculture and Treasury Ministries will examine damage to the fields by mid-January, should no rain fall until then. The committee will also decide on compensation to farmers.

Farmers growing other crops have made up for the lack of rainfall with irrigation, increasing costs but with no damage to crops.

## Number of troubled businesses in '95 falls

RACHEL NEIMAN

THE number of businesses experiencing difficulty rose 49% in 1995, as compared with a 75% increase in 1994.

The number of negative indicators noted by Business Data Isra-

el rose to 77,268 at the end of 1995, from 51,809 last January. "There has been a stabilization in the growth rate of the number

of negative indicators which has been added to our 'red light' list as compared with 1994," said BDI general manager Ayal Yanai. "Nonetheless, it's hard to estimate whether this stability will continue during 1996."

Of the 1,182 companies added to the list in December 1995, 358 experienced problems of liquidity, 419 reportedly bounced checks, 288 had foreclosure or debt problems and 117 were other problems.

Construction made up 31% of negative indicators for December, food 23.8%; electronics and computers 10.9%; professional services 6.8%; textiles and durable goods 11%; metals 3.1%; and other 13.4%.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

2m. tourists here since beginning of year: More than two million tourists entered Israel during the first 11 months of the year, an increase of 21 percent over the same period of 1994, the Central Bureau of Statistics reported yesterday.

The figures showed a total of 2,050,500 for the 11-month period. Of these, 1,552,400 arrived by air, an increase of 12% percent, while 22,200 arrived by sea, a rise of 25%. The greatest increase was in the number of visitors who came by land, 475,900, up 66%. This number, however, includes those who had left Israel to visit neighboring countries, then returned. *Haim Shapiro*

Belmon, Nurit form Novel Cosmetics: Cosmetics firms Belmon and Nurit have formed a joint venture, Novel Cosmetics, which will import, market and sell high-quality cosmetics presently represented by both companies. Novel's expected annual turnover is NIS 35m., with a 10% estimated market share. *Rachel Neiman*

Sesel has won an Israel Electric Corp. contract to provide NIS 170m. or 300 tons of diesel fuel in 1996. *Rachel Neiman*

'Israel-Palestinian VAT systems is good model for other countries': The joint VAT system between Israel and the Palestinian Authority is a model one for other nations to follow, according to Customs and VAT director Aryeh Zeif. The PA will receive returns on VAT and purchase tax of NIS 850m., Zeif announced this week. "We're interested in their buying from Israel," he said.

From a tax point of view, Zeif said earlier this week, Israel and the PA are one entity, thus nullifying the notion of smuggling from one area to another. "Israeli importers may sell in the PA [territory] and Palestinian importers may sell in Israel," Zeif said.

PA importers have also been allowed importation from countries with whom Israel has no relationship, in limited quantities determined by the populations of Gaza and Jericho. The recent additions of Ramallah and Bethlehem to the PA have increased the quota by 150%. *Rachel Neiman*

## WORLD BRIEFS

Airborne Freight Corp., a fast-growing express delivery company, said yesterday it will acquire 12 used Boeing 767-200 airplanes from two private firms for \$290 million.

The Seattle-based company, which operates under the name Airborne Express, said it also plans to buy another 10 to 15 of the aircraft for about \$310m. over eight years. *Reuters*

'EMU delay may prompt laxity': Bundesbank directorate member Helmut Schiebel yesterday warned that postponing the start of Europe's planned currency union may prompt some nations to abandon fiscal restraint.

"We want to stick to [the January 1, 1999 starting] date since it exerts a certain amount of pressure on nations to exercise fiscal consolidation," Schiebel told the Berlin newspaper *Tagesspiegel*.

Schiebel said that all current talk of postponing the starting date was counterproductive. Rather he suggested there would still be time for such discussions after the group of nations meeting the entry criteria has been named in 1998. *Reuters*

## Survey: Major capital market sectors up in '95

RACHEL NEIMAN

INVESTORS who stuck with their investments benefited in 1995, according to Meitav's annual capital market survey.

All major market sectors posted positive real yields thanks to improvement on the share market during the last month and a half.

CPI-linked bonds yielded returns due to a 7.7% rise in consumer prices.

Government CPI-linked bonds rose 9% and corporate CPI-linked bonds rose 8.1%. Short-term government bonds had the highest yield of between 10.3% and 10.5%. Long-term (ten year) government bonds had a lower yield of 6.9%.

Meitav said the Bank of Israel's monetary policy was primarily responsible for the lag on long term bonds, along with redemptions on provident and mutual funds. The most positive influence was an influx of treasury

issues both here and abroad, and decreased yield to maturity world wide.

Dollar-linked Gilboa bonds had a 9.8% yield. The capital market was highly volatile. January had sharp drops early in the month and jumped back at month's end, only to experience an even harder fall in February. The TASE then continued to rise slowly and steadily until August, from a low of 140 to a record 214 on the Maof options' index.

The general share index rose 14.4%, the Maof was up by 22.6%, the Two-Sided index increased 20.9% and the Karam index sneaked up 1.4%.

Meitav pointed out figures were influenced by few important companies — Bezeq, which increased 78% (primarily due to investment by Cable and Wireless), Teva, which rose 103%, and Koor which was up 41%.

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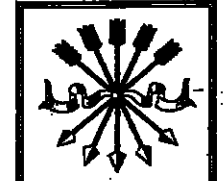
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Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.500	0.500	0.500	
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French franc	0.6368	0.6368	0.6368	4.8895
Japanese yen (100)	3.0341	3.0341	3.0341	0.9414
Australian dollar	1.9117	1.9117	1.9117	3.0338
Swiss franc	2.7004	2.7004	2.7004	1.8584
Swedish krona	0.4677	0.4753	0.45	0.4732
Norwegian krona	0.4824	0.5004	0.48	0.4971
Danish krone	0.5615	0.5708	0.55	0.5661
Finnish mark	0.7137	0.7283	0.70	0.7222
Canadian dollar	2.2815	2.3285	2.25	2.37
Australian dollar	2.3238	2.3913	2.28	2.3535
S. African rand	0.8528	0.8688	0.77	0.8613
Belgian franc (10)	1.0577	1.0748	1.03	1.0670
Austrian schilling (10)	0.5857	0.5986	0.58	0.5912
Italian lire (1000)	1.3843	1.3880	1.38	1.39
Jordanian dinar	—	—	—	—
Egyptian pound	—	—	—	—
EU	3.9895	4.0498	—	—
Irish punt	4.9922	5.0734	4.80	—
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64 Orlov St. Tel. 03-9347111

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**SHIRAN - ISRAELI MLS** on Internet. URL: <http://www.shiran.co.il> 50 professional agencies at your service. Tel. 02-585297 Fax: 02-233948.

**SPECTACULAR VIEW! NEAR Great Synagogue**, 3 rooms, 4th floor + elevator, available immediately. PURPLE ORCHID REALTY Tel. 02-767102 (N.S.).

**TALBIH, 3.5, LOADED**, 1st floor, 100 sq.m., 3 balconies, \$340,000. AMERICAN REALTY, Tel. 02-820-125.

**TALBIH, ELEGANT**, 7, architect designed, Arab style, balconies, great location, parking. AVI DOTAN REALTY, Tel. 050-337-776.

**TALBIH: FANTASTIC LOCATION**, 2.5, first floor, balconies, 2, special, yard. T.A.C. Tel. 02-631-764.

**TALBIH NEIGHBORHOOD**, PRESIDENTIAL apartment, 150 sq.m. + elevator, parking. AVI DOTAN REALTY, Tel. 050-337-776.

**TALBIH, ARCHITECT DESIGNED**, 7 elegant reception areas, fabulous location, Corinne Davar Tel. 02-733385.

**TALBIH, MAGNIFICENT 4 (135 sq.m.)**, quiet, + garden (400 sq.m.) + parking. Yaelin Realty Tel. 02-262238.

**TALPIOT ATTRACTIVE**, 3.5, 2 bedrooms, attached storeroom, east to garden. CORINNE DAVAR Tel. 02-733385.

**URGENT: BAKA/ARONA**, SUPERS 5/6 room cottages, basement, garden. T.A.C. Tel. 03-631764.

**UZIEL, 6 ROOMS**, view, garden, storeroom, 3 directions, \$455,000. Tel. 02-430892, 02-890032 (N.S.).

**ARONA, MAGNIFICENT COTTAGE**, divided into 2 apartments - 5 + 2 rooms, lovely garden, \$750,000. Tel. 02-733-705(W), 02-735-144(W).

**FOR RELIGIOUS IN Bayit Vegan**, 3.4 rooms + balcony and/or garden. MISHAV Tel. 02-254191.

**KIRYAT-MOSHE (HASHOSHANA)**, 4.5, quiet, high ceilings, ground floor, \$379,000. Shiran exclusive through ANGLO-SAXON. Tel. 02-251-161.

**LUXURIOUS + SALES**, short/long-term rentals, "American Realty", customized service. Tel. 02-820-125; Fax: 02-243-228.

**REHAVA: (WASHINGTON)**, 3.5 + dining, beautiful, modern, quiet, parking. T.A.C. Tel. 02-631-764.

**TALBIH, 4, SPACIOUS**, balconies, expensive, 1st floor, green and quiet. Ben-Zvi Tel. 02-631-764.

**TALBIH: 6 BEAUTIFUL**, huge, modern, light, quiet, balconies. T.A.C. Tel. 02-631-764.

## SALE

**3 ROOMS IN Ramat's nicest area**, 1st floor, view, special. Tel. 02-854217 NS.

## WHERE TO STAY

**NEAR KING DAVID**, sleeps 5, fully equipped. Tel. 072-2-970-733; Fax: 072-2-970-764.

Dwellings  
Tel Aviv

## HOLIDAY RENTALS

**BEAUTIFUL APTS/SUITES** BETWEEN Gan Ha'ar and the beach, tourists/businessmen, short/long term. Tel. 03-695-9052, 03-533-072.

**FOR TOURISTS/BUSINESSMEN**, WONDERFUL holiday apartments, opposite sea, short term. Tel. 050-295034, 03-5181321.

Dwellings  
Tel Aviv

## RENTALS

**OPERA TOWER**, 4, high floor, sea view, \$3,500. ANGLO-SAXON (Maiden), Tel. 03-546-7722.

**4 ROOMS, ELEVATOR**, parking, new quiet, near sea. PENTHOUSE Tel. 03-528-5037.

**AZORAI CHEN**, 5 rooms, sea view, high floor, appliances, long term. LITAM REAL ESTATE Tel. 03-593-517.

**(1) BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT** + exclusive furniture (2) Short/long-term apartments for tourists. AUSSIES REALTORS (Maiden) Tel. 03-546-8738.

**BEAUTIFUL HOLIDAY APARTMENTS**, tourists/businessmen, short/long term. DYNAMI Tel. 03-5488003, Fax: 03-5488957.

**CENTER TEL AVIV**, new roof apartment and duplex, magnificent, parking, elevator. Tel. 03-695-5765.

**CENTRAL TEL AVIV**, beautiful house for rent, quiet, MALDAN. Tel. 03-648-1825, 043-1367.

**DIZENGOFF TOWER**, LUXURY furnished apartment, 2 rooms + hall, available immediately. Tel. 03-528-8452.

**DIZENGOFF TOWER**, LUXURY furnished apartment, 2 rooms + hall, available immediately. Tel. 03-528-8452.

**FURNISHED STUDIO** for rent, Colony House (Maiden), 2nd floor, sea view, 1/156-15/596, \$500/month. Tel. 03-642-8348 (H); 03-642-8765 (W) Michele.

**HOLIDAY APARTMENTS, SHORT/LONG term**, near sea shore, MAOR Tel. (072)3-6994130; Tel. (072)3-6997012.

**LUXURIOUS, 3 ROOMS** plus super villa in Jaffa, sea view. Tel. 03-695-2312, 050-218822.

**NEVE ZEDEK**, 2, furnished, special, \$700, 2nd floor, long-term. Tel. 03-528-8180.

**RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL**, luxurious apartments, 6 houses for rent. ADTS PROPERTIES. Tel. 03-6418396.

**RAMAT CHEN, PENTHOUSE**, 6, \$1,500, 5 - \$800, 4 - \$500, new, elevator, parking, Agent. Tel. 050-300-840.

**TWO LARGE ROOMS**, between Hilon and Dizengoff, fully renovated, one month minimum. Tel. 02-477280.

**4 LARGE ROOMS**, 5th floor, front, elevator, air-conditioning, Rabin Square. Tel. 03-540-1894, 052-585-603.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**, 4 rooms, Best Towers 03-588-0015(days), 03-581-1755(even.)

**BEST APARTMENTS, BEST locations**, Best prices, short/long-term rentals. Tel. 03-523-8180.

**EXCLUSIVE! ARNON**, 4, large, renovated and quiet. \$1100. KAN-HAYAL, Tel. 03-523-9988.

**EZOREI-CHEN**, 3, MODERN, fully furnished, downtown, country club, Yael REALTOR (Maiden). Tel. 03-642-8223.

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**FOR TOURISTS**, Near Dan Hotel, fully furnished apartment, elevator, satellite. Tel. 03-5266932.

## SALES

**1 BEDROOM FULLY equipped**, apartment-hotel, sea view, \$350,000. ANGLO-SAXON (Maiden) Tel. 03-546-7722.

**CENTRAL TEL AVIV**, superb 148 m. duplex, 3 beds, amazing open terrace area, elevator, parking, \$223,000. Tel. (03) 522-0030.

**PENTHOUSE IN Kikar Hamedina**, special, 700 sq.m., surrounded by roof-top garden. NORDAU REALTY Tel. 03-5441396.

**PRESTIGIOUS NORTH**, 220 sq.m., top floor, breathtaking view, 6, double convenience, 2 parking spaces. Tel. 03-523-9937.

**ROOF APARTMENT ON Ruppit**, 2 bedrooms + large balcony, sea view, Newell ANGLO-SAXON (Maiden) Tel. 03-548-7722.

## RELIGIOUS SERVICES

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RELIGIOUS SERVICES  
TORA PORTION: VAYIGASH

## HAIFA CHRISTIAN

**BET ELIAHU (EVANGELICAL)** Messianic Congregation) Haifa, 43 Meir Street, Tel. 04-523581.

## JER. CHRISTIAN

**SUNDAY, 6 PM.** Pentecostal Worship Service, Mt. Zion Fellowship, 7:30 p.m. Fri., Sat., Sun. Tel. 02-828964.

## KING OF KINGS ASSEMBLY YMC

Auditorium, 26 King David St., Sunday 4:30p.m. and 7:00p.m. Tel. 02-610-017.

## JER. CHRISTIAN

**REDEEMER CHURCH**, Lutheran, Muristan Rd. Old City, Jerusalem. Sunday services: English 9:00 a.m. German 10:30 a.m. Tel. 02-6111261049.

## JERUSALEM

**HEBREW UNION COLLEGE**, 13 King David St. Shabbat morning service, 9:30 a.m.

## MOSHET YISRAEL - Conservative

4 Agorot, Dr. Avraham Feder, Rabbi. Ft. Mithra 5:45 a.m. Shabbat 6:30. Mincha 3:45 Daily at 7:00 a.m.

## TEL AVIV

**BAPTIST VILLAGE CONGREGATION**, 3 km. north of Petah Tikva, near Yarkon Junction. Sabbath Bible study Sunday 9:45 a.m. Worship hour, 10:45 a.m. Tel. 02-744661.

**Immanuel Church (Lutheran)**, Tel Aviv-Yaffa, 15 Beer Hachaim (near 17 Elat St.) Tel. 03-626264 Saturday service 11 a.m. Service in English every Sunday at 10 a.m.

## WHERE TO GO

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## WHERE TO GO

**HEBREW UNIVERSITY, TOURS** of the Mount Scopus campus, in English, daily Sun.-Thur., 11 a.m. from Brodman Reception Centre, Sherman Administration Bldg. Buses, 4a, 9, 23, 26, 28. For info, call 882819. **HADASSAH**, Visit the Hadassah Institute, Chagall Windows. Tel. 02-416333, 02-778271.

## HAIFA

**WHAT'S ON IN HAIFA**, dial 04-374253.

## WHERE TO GO

## JERUSALEM

**CONDUCTED TOURS** Tourists and Visitors, come and see the General Israel Orphan Home for Girls, Jerusalem, its manifold activities, and impressively modern buildings. Free guided tours weekdays, 9-12 Bus no. 14, 24 or 5, Kiryat Moshe, 523291.

## WHERE TO GO

## TEL AVIV

**Conducted Tours** WIZO. To visit our projects call Tel Aviv 6923819; Jerusalem 256080; Haifa 589817.

## ARTGUIDE

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## ART GUIDE

## HAIFA

**THE REUBEN AND EDITH HECHT MUSEUM** (Haifa University). Permanent exhibition: The People of Israel in Eretz Yisrael - Phenicians on the Northern Coast of Israel in the Biblical Period - Caesarea - a Mercantile City by the Sea. Impressionism and the Jewish School of Paris. Open Sun., Mon., Wed., Thur., 10-4; Tue. 10-7. Fri. 10-1. Sat. 10-2. ADMISSION FREE.

## ART GUIDE

## JERUSALEM

**Museums** **OLD YESHUV COURT MUSEUM**. Life in the Jewish community in the Old City, mid-18th century - World War I. 6 Or Haim, Jewish Quarter, Old City. Sun.-Thur. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

## ART GUIDE

## TEL AVIV

**TEL AVIV MUSEUM OF ART**. Eight in November - Gillsberg, Gross, Reisman, Shalevsky, Almog, Eisen, Gal, David, Van Dyck and his Collections. **HELEN RUBINSTEIN PAVILION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART**. Hours: 10:00 a.m.-6 p.m. Tue.-Thu., 10-10 p.m. Fri., Sat., 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. Art Education Center, closed for renovations. Tel. 0819155/67.

## GENERAL ASSISTANCE

## EMERGENCY PHARMACIES

Friday, December 29

**Jerusalem:** Kupat Holim Chai, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 706960; Salah e-Din, 272315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 810106; Dar Adama, Herod's Gate, 292058. **Tel Aviv:** Pharmad, 41 Yarmyahu, next to Pater cinema, 544-2050; Lev Ha'ar, 69 Ahad Ha'am, 560-3862. **Ramat Gan:** Kfar Sava, 36 Ostrovsky, Rafanana, 431613. **Netanya:** Hanasani, 36 Weizmann, 823638. **Kiryat Gaton:** Niv Pharm, 13 Moshe Goshen, Kiryat Motzkin, 870-0715. **Haifa:** Hanasani, 38 Hanasani, 533-3312. **Herzliya:** Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazin, 6 Masaki (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 556472, 556407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. **Upper Nazareth:** Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ar Meir, 570488. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 30

**Jerusalem:** (day) Arnon, 9 Leib Yaffa, 731801; (evening) Kupat Holim Chai, Straus A, 3 Avigdor, 706960; (day and evening) Balaam, Salah e-Din, 272315; Shufat, Shufat Road, 810106; Dar Adama, Herod's Gate, 292058. **Tel Aviv:** Shimon Hamelech, 78 Shimon Hamelech, 524-6481; Brit, 28 King George, 528-3731; (evening, till midnight) Superpharm Ramat Aviv, 40 Einshen, Ramat Aviv, 641-3730. **Ramat Gan:** Kfar Sava, (day) Doron, 6 Gusha, Rafanana, 771-6084; (evening) Shofar, 78 Ahuva, Rafanana, 981026. **Netanya:** Clal Pharm, 60 Binyamin, 838091. **Kiryat Gaton:** Superpharm, Hekyot, 44 Hekyot, Kiryat Beit, 877-9221. **Haifa:** Hanasani Dany, 38 Abba Khoushy, 594-1118.

**Herzliya:** Clal Pharm, Beit Merkazin, 6 Masaki (near Sderot Hagalim), Herzliya Pituah, 556472, 556407. Open 9 a.m. to midnight. **Upper Nazareth:** Clal Pharm, Lev Ha'ar Meir, 570488. Open 9 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Saturday, December 30

**Jerusalem:** Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics). **Tel Aviv:** Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, internal, Ichilov (surgery). **Netanya:** Laniado.

Saturday, December 30

**Jerusalem:** Hadassah Ein Kerem (internal, surgery, orthopedics, ophthalmology, ENT); Bikur Holim (pediatrics); Shaare Zedek (pediatrics). **Tel Aviv:** Tel Aviv Medical Center (pediatrics, Ich



**DWELLINGS**

Tel Aviv

**For Sale**  
**North Tel Aviv**  
**New building**  
near the sea  
on 50 Yirmiyahu St.  
  
Unique & luxurious  
2.5 room apartments  
& duplex/penthouses  
  
Private underground parking!  
  
For more information:  
Tel: 03-5367112, 050-339230,  
052-553391

2 BEDROOMS, NEAR HILTON, fully renovated, \$310,000, ANGLO-SAXON (Maidan) Tel. 03-546-7722.

3 BEDROOMS, NEW on Nordau Blvd, near the beach, \$400,000, ANGLO-SAXON (Maidan) Tel. 03-546-7722.

3 BEDROOMS, NEW on Dizengoff, super location, \$370,000, ANGLO-SAXON (Maidan) Tel. 03-546-7722.

3.5, NEAR THE BEACH, new, elevator, parking, \$335,000, ANGLO-SAXON Tel. 03-546-7722 (Maidan).

FOR SERIOUS: NORTH, new 5, 150 sq.m., luxurious, architect designed, Tel. 03-893472.

KIKAR HAMDINA, 3RD floor, 4 rooms - 148 sq.m., storage, immediate Tel. 03-605-4207/8.

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NORTH TEL AVIV (Shikun Dan), new, 6 rooms, 250 sq.m., built, superb location, NINEVEN Tel. 03-642-5291.

OPERA TOWER: 3, large and luxurious, 16th floor, view of sea and Jaffa, \$600,000, Tel. 03-523-9228.

RAMAT AVIV GIMMEL, luxurious apartments, 2 houses for sale, ADP'S PROPERTIES, Tel. 03-841-8396.

RAMAT AVIV "G", immediate, 4, store-room, parking, improved, first floor, Tel. (03) 847-8388.

ROOF APARTMENT on Ben Yehuda, near the beach, 2 bedrooms, new! ANGLO-SAXON (Maidan) Tel. 03-546-7722.

TEL AVIV, 6, new! 180 meters, beautiful, magnificent, parking, elevator, Tel. 03-685-7982.

SOUTHERN TEL BARUCH, huge plot + beautiful house, improved, for discounting, ISCO Tel. 03-642-9233.

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REAL ESTATE & INVESTMENTS  
לשירות לקוחות  
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\* Central Tel Aviv, 4 rooms, quiet, 3rd floor, elevator, parking, \$360,000.  
\* Rehov Be'er, 3 rooms, 1st floor, approx. 90 sq.m., \$325,000.  
\* Rehov Soutine, 3 rooms, high parterre, \$300,000.  
\* Sea Tower - Pincas/Wetzmann, 5, 2nd floor, parking, elevator, guard, \$520,000.  
\* Rehov Baria, 4 rooms, renovated, elevator, parking, \$380,000.  
\* Neve Avivim, 4 rooms, elevator, parking, \$450,000.

24 Bloch St., Tel Aviv  
Tel. 05-5247191-2-5  
Fax: 05-5249158

JAFFA, 3 + balcony, near port, immediate, 4th floor (without), \$150,000, Tel. 03-683-1081.

COTTAGE FOR SALE, new, in Zichron Yehonatan, quiet location, Tel. 03-923-2258, NS.

EXCLUSIVE! EXCELLENT FOR investment! 2 apartments, divided, Ramat Gan, fully furnished, KAV-HAYAM, Tel. 03-523-9898.

EXCLUSIVE! GAN HATZI 257 sq. m., high, well planned, KAV-HAYAM, Tel. 03-523-9898.

EXCLUSIVE! OPERA TOWER! 2 high, breathtaking view of sea, KAV-HAYAM, Tel. 03-523-9898.

LUXURIOUS APARTMENT on the sea, 2-3 rooms, Tel. 03-923-212, 050-216-882.

RAMAT-AVIV GIMMEL, EXCEPTIONAL, 4 bed sq. m. incl. furniture, \$700,000, YAL REALTOR (Maidan), Tel. 03-642-6253.

**DWELLINGS**

Dan Region

RENTAL: POALEI HARAKEVET, 4, first floor, parking, elevator, fully furnished, Tel. 03-673-6522.

**RENTALS**

GIVATAYIM, HERZOG, 3, furnished + parking, long term possible, 5 800 Tel. 03-6788030.

HERZLIYA-PITUACH, IN GALEI TCHETEL, 350 sq. m. built New, of the highest standards + pool, KAV HAYAM, Tel. 03-523-9898.

**SALES**

GIVATAYIM, TEL GANIM, 3.5, 3rd floor, no elevator, improved, air conditioning, Tel. 03-571-7332, 03-522-7254.

HERZLIYA PITUACH: NEAR sea, beautiful villa, for rent, CONNECTIONS, Tel. 050-255991, 03-504819.

HOLON: SPECIAL, IMPROVED, central and quiet street, 4 rooms, 3 exposures, Tel. 03-6398710.

HERZLIYA PITUACH: LUXURIOUS villa + half dunam, facing sea, Tel. 09-540894, 050-231725.

RISHON LEZION (Kiryat Ganim), 5 rooms + 350 sq. m. garden, storeroom, parking for immediate sale + occupancy, Tel. 03-575-2401; hm 02-652-0340.

**DWELLINGS**

Southern Coast

SALES: REHOVOT, FOR RELIGIOUS, 4-5 room apartments, possible immediate entry, MISHAB Tel. 03-451582.

**DWELLINGS**

Sharon Area

SALES: CAESAREA: LUXURIOUS HOUSE, pool, desirable neighborhood, amazing sea view, Tel. 03-952921, 050-231725.

CAESAREA: LUXURIOUS HOUSE, pool, sea view, air conditioned, heated, Tel. 050-231725, 03-952921.

CHOICE OF VILLAS & penthouses for sale/rent in Herzliya Pituach, Kfar Shmaryahu, Tel Aviv, ILIAM REAL ESTATE, Tel. 03-589-611.

HERZLIYA PITUACH: FOR QUICK DECISION! In Gali Tchelet st., house + dunam, \$1,800,000, Tel. 03-540994, 050-231725.

HERZLIYA, NEVE AMIRIM, luxury apartment, 179 sq.m., double parking, \$480,000, Tel. 03-585730.

NETANYA CENTER, LUXURY cliff top home, superb terraced views, \$950,000, Tel. 03-551738.

NEVE AMIRIM, 6, 150 meters, improved, air-conditioned, heating, Tel. 03-952-955, 03-585-011.

NEW, WELL EQUIPPED, 5, basement, roof, Herzliya center, garden, double parking, \$480,000, Tel. 03-585-088.

RA'ANANA, 7, 240 sq.m., 400 sq.m. plot, Tel. 03-566572, 052-330888.

RA'ANANA, AKIVA ST., penthouse, 4 rooms, 6th floor, with improvements, Tel. 03-455-982.

RAMAT HASHARON: VILLA, high standard, 220 sq.m. built on 470 sq.m. plot, immediate, Tel. 03-5459182.

RAMAT HASHARON, 4 rooms + roof + 2, quiet, lift, view, 03-540815, 03-568870.

VILLA, HERZLIYA PITUACH (next to American Consulate), dunam, 2 units possible, \$1,550,000, YANIV Tel. 03-580-558.

NETANYA REAL ESTATE UNION  
Opportunity: exclusive apartment facing the sea, incl. electrical appliances, \$350,000. Serious realtor needed.  
Tel. 09-582817

**RENTALS**

5, BEAUTIFUL, LARGE apartment + pool, Contact Eldan, evenings only, Tel. 03-534-8388.

FOR RENT HERZLIYA PITUACH, 4 bedroom house, separate dining room, big living room, great location, MORGAN REAL ESTATE, Tel. 03-572-759.

FOR RENT IN Herzliya: Tzamerot, 5 rooms, new, long-term, Tel. 03-540-2055.

HERZLIYA FOR RENT, Tzamerot, new, high floor, luxury central air-conditioned apartment, 5 rooms with balcony, Iliam Real Estate, 03-589-611.

HERZLIYA PITUACH: CHOICE of luxurious villas for rent, SHAASHUA Tel. 03-570578 (Maidan).

HERZLIYA: NEVE AMIRIM, 5, 6th floor, 170 sq.m., air conditioned, \$1,100, Tel. 03-6826477.

KFAR SABA, 2, protected housing for seniors in Migdal Yehonatan, Tel. 03-223-947.

KFAR SHMARYAHU, PRIVATE house, new, garage, on dunam, for foreign residents, diplomats, Tel. 03-562-014.

RA'ANANA, NEW, EXCLUSIVE duplex, Lev Hagar, 5 rooms, \$500, electrical appliances, Tel. (09) 771-1850.

FOR RENT/SALE, FURNISHED, fully equipped apartments on the beach front of Herzliya Pituach, short-term, ILIAM REAL ESTATE, Tel. 03-589-811.

FOR RENT HERZLIYA PITUACH

HERZLIYA HAYERUKA ROOF apt., new, 5 rooms, quiet location, Long term, CACTUS, Tel. 03-555-838.

HERZLIYA-PITUACH, 7 ROOM, spacious house, Well designed, cared for, OPEN-DUNSKY, Tel. 03-573-098.

HERZLIYA-PITUACH GOOD LOCATION, cute, 3 bedroom house, reasonable rent, OPEN-DUNSKY, Tel. 03-573-098.

HERZLIYA PITUACH: 5.5, spacious, garden, reasonable, no agents, possible furnished, Tel. 03-957930 (N.S.).

UNFURNISHED, 4 ROOM, duplex penthouse in Herzliya Pituach, sea view, 2nd, 3rd floor, \$1,450, Tel. 03-589-485, 050-213435.

**SALES**

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HERZLIYA PITUACH: LUXURIOUS villa + half dunam, facing sea, Tel. 09-540894, 050-231725.

RISHON LEZION (Kiryat Ganim), 5 rooms + 350 sq. m. garden, storeroom, parking for immediate sale + occupancy, Tel. 03-575-2401; hm 02-652-0340.

NETANYA, SEASONS HOTEL, studio, \$140,000, Tel. 03-351759.

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DANKNER ST. 4 rooms, 170 sq.m. sea view \$389,000

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RAMAT POLEG - New 5 room penthouse 250 sq.m. Sea view \$380,000

RAMAT POLEG - New 6 room cottage plus basement. Prime location \$361,000

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CAESAREA: LUXURIOUS HOUSE, pool, sea view, air conditioned, heated, Tel. 050-231725, 03-952921.

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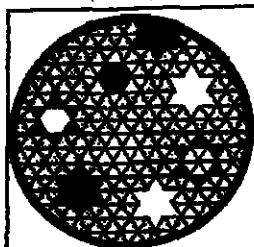
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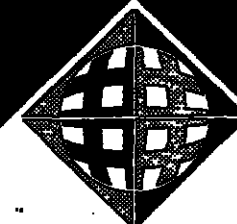
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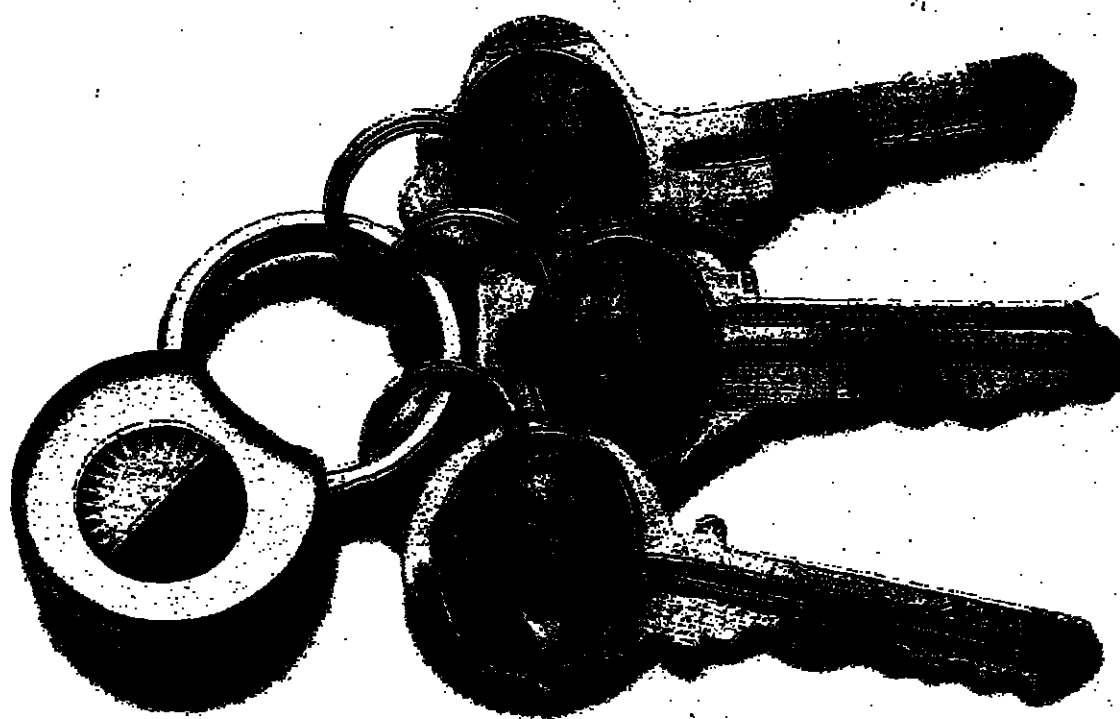
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## LIKUD

(Continued from Page 1)

camp needs that extra push now, and I would like to help the Likud get it.

"For the good of the nation, I would like to see the Likud back in power, so that we pursue not a quick immediate peace, which may perhaps be easy to achieve, but which is a sham. What we need is a peace that may take longer to obtain, but which will last long and will be real."

Exra said his capacity as adviser to Shahal never signaled any association with Labor. "I am an outside adviser, not part of the civil service, and I would advise any official, of whatever party, in the fight against terrorism. If the aim is to make life in this country more secure, then I am ready for service."

Shahal wished Exra success and praised him "as one of the country's best."

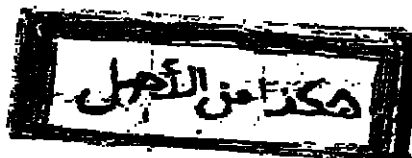
Likud leader Binyamin Netanyahu also scored a success by wooing Azran away from the Levy movement. Earlier in the week, he had similarly attracted Dimona Mayor Gabi Lalouche. Both had been among Levy's closest associates.

Both are reported disappointed with what is perceived as Levy's abandonment of the development town mayors who had provided his power base. Levy's attempt to recruit vote-getters to his list was regarded by his initial associates as a betrayal.

Azran had been negotiating with Netanyahu and, although Netanyahu made the unusual move of appealing to him over the radio yesterday to "come back home," Azran's return is a fait accompli. Azran is reported to have filed his candidacy forms on Tuesday. This was kept a under wraps as he did not want his move publicized immediately.

He is a particularly popular mayor and had won the last municipal election on an independent list, defeating the official Likud candidate.

Netanyahu, however, rejected the candidacy of former independent MK Shmuel Flato-Sharon, who also tried to throw his hat in the Likud primary ring. Netanyahu seized on a technicality to reject his candidacy.







# Budget likely to pass in early morning session

THE 1996 budget seemed likely to pass by a comfortable majority early this morning, after a six-hour debate which lost soundly to basketball star Mickey Berkowitz's final game in the competition for MKs' attendance.

With both the Arab parties and the haredi parties having promised to abstain on the vote in exchange for partial satisfaction of their financial demands, the government could command 58 votes to the opposition's 47, if every MK showed up.

The Economic Arrangements Law accompanying the budget, which has been the subject of a round-the-clock debate for the past three days, was expected to pass at the same time as the budget.

The vote on this law was originally scheduled for 6:30 p.m. yesterday, which would have given the MKs time to watch the ball game afterwards, during the budget debate, and then return for the vote on the budget, which was scheduled for "no earlier than 1 a.m."

However, when it became clear that the debate on the law would not finish by this time, the House Committee unanimously

EVELYN GORDON

agreed to defer the vote until the same time as the budget vote, leaving MKs free to go watch the game without worrying about missing a vote.

By the end, all the MKs were getting tired of the marathon debate on the Arrangements Law, and therefore agreed to limit speaking time during the final hours to five minutes per MK rather than five minutes per proposed amendment, of which there were thousands.

However, it had already dragged on long enough that the key portion of the budget debate - the summary statements by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu - occurred during the middle of last night, thereby guaranteeing the least possible press coverage of the issues.

A joint Knesset Finance-Foreign Affairs and Defense committee finally approved the defense budget yesterday afternoon, after the Finance Committee in the morning passed an amendment to the Basics of the Budget Law to increase Knesset supervision of defense spending.

Under the amendment, some 50 or 60 line items involving the purchase of equipment will be placed into one category, with the rest of the defense budget in a second category.

Transfers of funds from the first category to the second will require Finance Committee approval if they total more than NIS 40 million cumulatively, and transfers between line items within the first category will need committee approval if they total more than NIS 50 million cumulatively.

Several second-reading votes on proposed amendments to the Economic Arrangements Law also took place yesterday morning, but generated little excitement.

The long school day amendment, which last year forced the government to withdraw the Arrangements Law for fear that it would pass, was easily defeated this year, 47-31-3. Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dayan, the architect of last year's near victory, withdrew his own amendment this year before the vote and voted against the identical amendment by Meir Sheerit (Likud), though two of his Labor colleagues, Shlomo Bubbut and Yossi Vanunu, abstained.

## Patriarch wants agreement between non-Catholic church and Israel

GREEK Orthodox Patriarch Diodoros I yesterday issued an open call for a legally binding agreement with Israel.

The call, the first by a non-Catholic church, came during the patriarch's traditional response to President Ezer Weizman and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet at the president's annual new year's reception for the heads of the Christian communities at Beit Hanassi.

Following the signing of the fundamental agreement between the State of Israel and the Vatican in December 1993, it was assumed that other churches would negotiate similar agreements. However, the Vatican is the only world church which is recognized as having a kind of sovereignty, thus enabling it to enter into treaty agreements.

Diodoros offered his congratulations on the positive outcome of the peace process and his encour-

HAIM SHAPIRO

agement for continued cooperation with the Palestinians. However, he added that he hoped that the resulting agreements would in no way compromise the existing status quo concerning holy places, nor infringe upon the rights and privileges of the religious communities.

Any change in the status quo or rights and privileges, or their reaffirmation, he added, "should constitute the topic of future agreements between the historical communities and the State of Israel."

Diodoros said that the churches would continue to strive for peace, and expressed satisfaction at the progress so far. In what was taken as a reference to Syria, he added that he hoped that other neighboring peoples would also respond to the quest for peace.

In his message, Weizman reviewed the events of the past century, noting that it was only during the past 17 or 18 years that a way had been found to begin ending the dispute between Jew and Arab. Shetreet noted that by 2000, millions of Christian pilgrims would be visiting the country annually.

Neither Weizman nor Shetreet chose to make any reference to Jerusalem, a lapse that was noted by government officials and senior church leaders. After the reception, Religious Affairs Minister spokesman Ofer Amar said that he imagined that Shetreet had not wanted to introduce a note of discord at this state occasion.

Amar pointed out that in private meetings with church officials over the past few days, Shetreet has stressed that Israel has no intention of giving up sovereignty in Jerusalem.



Jerusalem schoolchildren welcome some newcomers yesterday to the Tisch Jerusalem Biblical Zoo: two female elephants from Thailand. (Brian Handler)

## Doctors reconstruct face of Nablus farmer bitten by donkey

JUDY SIEGEL

A 60-YEAR-OLD Nablus farmer whose nose and upper lip were bitten off by a newly purchased donkey has had his face restored by plastic surgery at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital.

"There was a large hole in the center of his face," said Dr. Ya'acov Golan, head of the hospital's plastic surgery department, who operated on the victim. "I had never seen anything like it."

The farmer had bought the donkey and attached him to a plow to work his field last Saturday. For unknown reasons, the animal attacked its owner, causing severe damage. His family shot the mule to death, and the man was rushed to Nablus Hospital. But since doctors were unable to deal with the cosmetic problem, the Palestinian Authority asked to transfer him to Shaare Zedek.

To replace the upper lip, surgeons removed part of the lower lip and transferred it. To restore his nose, they took a large flap of skin from the forehead and the scalp and "built" the nose from it.

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## US court orders Arafat to testify in 'Lauro' suit

MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been ordered to testify in a civil lawsuit stemming from the 1985 hijacking of the Italian cruise ship *Achille Lauro* and murder of wheelchair-bound passenger Leon Klinghoffer, or be held liable for damages.

Arafat has until January 12 to comply with a March 1994 order to give a deposition in the hijacking. Judge Louis Stanton of US District Court has ruled.

Ramsey Clark, the former US attorney general who is representing the PLO, said in a statement that negotiations are "progressing." It is not clear what the negotiations entail, although there is speculation that the PLO might settle the suit to avoid testimony and a default judgment.

PLO lawyers said that a deposition is impossible because of "constant demands on President Arafat's time in the ongoing peace process and the political consequences of giving a deposition for an American travel agency seeking damages for alleged and doubtful minor commercial losses," the Associated Press reported.

Stanton's ruling was issued in favor of Crown Travel of Union, NJ, which arranged the cruise. Crown, in turn, is being sued by the Klinghoffer family.

Arafat "was personally involved in freeing the hostages and indeed boasted about his efforts in that regard," the travel agency argued.

Arafat has denied involvement in the hijacking. The PLO said those arrested "belonged to a Palestinian group that was hostile to President Arafat and the PLO."

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TEL AVIV - 03-527166/7 W. GURION POST: 04-635350  
JERUSALEM - 02-527161/3 W. GURION POST: 04-635350  
TEL AVIV - 03-527166/7 W. GURION POST: 04-635350

VALID 26/8/95 - 1/12/95

مكتبة من الكتب